



Catherine McRackan Smith

June 28, 1932 - November 22, 2011

Catherine McRackan Smith died Tuesday evening November 22, 2011 of Alzheimer's disease at National Healthcare of Mauldin.

She was the daughter of the late Margaret Wilson McRackan and the late Robert Morris McRackan both of long family lines from early North Carolina History.

Catherine graduated as Valedictorian of her class from Southport High School in 1950. In addition Catherine and her twin sister Rebecca were distinguished players on the high school basketball court. Later they would be recognized as outstanding players on the Meredith College basketball team. Catherine graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC in 1954.

Catherine lived her professional life devoted to serving others as she lived her life day to day. Her professional life of teaching was devoted to her third grade classes. As a third grade teacher she was considered an extraordinary teacher by her principals, fellow teachers, students and their parents.

Catherine had the gift of making every child feel wanted, loved and capable of learning. She helped hundreds of children know what it was to be accepted for what they are, what they can do, and go on to experience the joy and success that comes with learning.

Catherine's North Carolina teaching experience from 1954 until 1962 was as follows, Laurinburg Elementary; Boylan Heights Elementary, Raleigh; Walcoats Elementary, Greenville and Poe Elementary, Raleigh. Then from 1964 until her retirement in 1986 she taught at Burtonsville Elementary in

Montgomery County, MD.

She was a tender, compassionate, considerate, loving dedicated wife, mother and friend. She was a role model to all. Refined in social graces but the most down to earth, genuine person you would ever meet! Catherine was relentless in her energy and loved to be on the "go." She enjoyed the cultural arts as much as being in the outdoors. Catherine enjoyed playing cards and loved going to the beach with her family. She was the quintessential cook and loved to entertain. After long days of teaching, grading papers, and staying afterschool to help students she always managed to create a wonderful home cooked meal every night for her family. She was known for her Coconut Cakes and Pound Cakes. She loved to work in the yard and help with house projects. In 1987 after retiring from teaching she and her husband moved to South Carolina. Catherine was a member of the Travelers Rest First Baptist Church of Travelers Rest, SC. She served and prepared food for families in the church and local community.

She is survived by her husband Carroll of 54 years and daughter Cindy Smith of Raleigh, NC, her identical twin sister Rebecca Moose of Conover, NC, sister in law Earline Banic of Oak Ridge, TN and many nieces.

In addition to her parents she was predeceased by a sister, Ann Revels of Lumberton, NC.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 PM Friday evening at The Howze Mortuary.

Funeral Services will be held at 11 o'clock Saturday morning at First Baptist Church of Travelers Rest, 20 McElhaney Road, Travelers Rest, SC. Burial will follow the service at Grand View Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 301 University Ridge, Suite 5000, Greenville, SC 29601-3686.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Service

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Travelers Rest
20 McElhaney Rd.
Travelers Rest, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *That's the best aswenr of all time! JMHO##imported-begin##Kalyn##imported-end##*

December 13, 2011 at 11:16 AM



“ *I was astonished to hear of the departure of Mrs. Smith! She was my third grade teacher at Burtonsville Elementary School; as was she for my mother, and aunt, and uncles. On behalf of my family I want to extend our deepest condolences to you and your family in this time of great loss. May the grace of the heavenly father be with you now and always.*

Teri Powell##imported-begin##Teri Powell##imported-end##

November 25, 2011 at 02:57 PM



“ *Mrs. Smith was one of my most favorite teachers. She taught me in 3rd grade at Burtonsville Elementary in 1976. I often share stories about how she challenged me to reach my fullest potential. She is why i pursued education as my professin. She will surely be missed.##imported-begin##Kim bishop##imported-end##*

November 25, 2011 at 01:36 PM



“ *I fondly remember Mrs. Smith from Burtonsville Elementary, and she did inspire and encourage her students. She was an exceptional teacher. I know that she played an important role in helping me to work to my potential and thirst for lifelong learning.##imported-begin##Robert Burch##imported-end##*

November 25, 2011 at 10:58 AM



“ just three weeks ago I was thinking of Catherine. Our son turned 43 on the 16th and she had hosted a lovely baby shower for me just a week before his birth. Teachers from burtonsville came and it was a lovely time. I so enjoyed working with her and gaining teaching insights from her, enjoying her lovely southern accent and being with her for VBS at first baptist in laurel. I imagine there are many people who would place her on their "favorite teacher" list. Our prayers are with you at this time of loss.##imported-begin##Beth Radford##imported-end##

November 25, 2011 at 10:04 AM



“ Cindy & Family;
After reading the beautifully composed write up about your Mother I realized that world need more people like her. She seemed to have a heart of gold, for all. Cindy you have always spoken about your Mother in the kindest most loving way, honoring her any conversation we had. My Prayers and Blessing are you with and your Family. Your Mother's time here has Blessed a lot of hearts, her giving ways have touch many lives. God Bless her, and she is with Our Lord and Father.
Love & Prayers-
Shannon Boains##imported-begin##Shannon Boains##imported-end##

November 25, 2011 at 08:08 AM