



Evelyn Neas Smith

July 10, 1925 - June 4, 2023

Margaret Evelyn Neas Smith, age 97, of Newport, died early Sunday morning, June 4, 2023, after a period of declining health. Born in the St. James community of Greene County, she was the last surviving child of Erban Lawrence and Sallie Kate Neas. She was a direct descendant of Michael Nehs and John Ottinger, two Revolutionary War soldiers who settled in the area. She received her education at nearby St. James Elementary and High Schools. Her early religious affiliation was with St. James Lutheran Church. On November 16, 1942, she married her high school sweetheart, I. Jay Smith, shortly before he was deployed to the South Pacific with the U.S. Marines during World War II. While I. Jay was in service, Evelyn worked at Laughlin Hospital in Greeneville. In April of 1945, I. Jay, together with A.A. Lamons, purchased an interest in Newport Hardware on Main Street. The pair later bought Fred M. Greer Hardware on Broadway. During this time the young Smith family moved to Newport, living first in the Northport area. In 1964, I. Jay sold his interest to Lamons and built I. Jay Smith Hardware adjacent to the family home on the Knoxville Highway. Meanwhile Evelyn cared for the couple's three children - Larry, Sharon, and Robyn - and then became an integral part of the business's success, working alongside her husband. In 1977, she opened 'Bridal Corner' within the store and delighted in counseling countless couples in their selections of china, crystal, silver, and appliances for their future homes. After the store's closure in 1990, for several years she continued working as a bridal consultant for Gilland's Horticulture Services

and Newport Hardware. A lifelong Lutheran, she was a devoted member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church where she served in numerous capacities: the Altar Guild, Vacation Bible School, and WELCA, to name a few. For several years she devoted countless hours to Cocke County Relay for Life's efforts to raise money for cancer research. She will long be remembered as the owner of the 'Christmas House,' beginning each September meticulously decorating both the inside and outside of her home with her vast collection of holiday items and hosting family and friends for joyful gatherings. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, son Larry Smith, two brothers-John M. Neas and wife Jean, Richard Neas and wife Nancy, one sister - June Neas and husband, Clyde Roberts, and one great-great-grandchild Sydney Miller. Immediate survivors include two daughters: Sharon (Jimmy) Styles, of Newport, and Robyn (Mark) Floyd of Knoxville; daughter-in-law Ann Smith of Dandridge; six grandchildren: Jennifer (Brian) Eisenhower of Newport; Lee Jay (Ashley) Smith of Hopkinsville, KY; Chuck (Julia) Styles of Newport; Sheri (Darrell) Donaldson of Canton, NC; Matthew (Laura) Floyd of Jackson, TN and Michael (Deana) Floyd of Denver, CO; fourteen great-grandchildren: McKinley Eisenhower of Newport; Emily and Ellie Smith of Hopkinsville, KY; Tonya (Jeremy) Lewellyn of Hartford; Sonya (Brandon) Sartain and Addyson Styles of Newport, Cassandra (Chris) Gibbons and Jennie (Sonny) Defoe, of Kodak; Joanne (Chris) Boykin of Newport, Katie (Austin) Bradshaw of Gatlinburg; Kolbe Donaldson of Canton, NC, Tyler and Spencer Floyd of Jackson, TN and Cameron Floyd of Denver, CO; and sixteen great-great-grandchildren: Shelby and Skylar Gibbons, Sarah Miller and Madalyn Defoe of Kodak; Gracie, Emma, Christopher, and Raylynn, Boykin of Newport, Tucker and Kiava Bradshaw of Gatlinburg; Mallory and Macy Lewellyn of Hartford, and Trenton and Ensley Sartain of Newport. Additional survivors include two nephews, W.L. (Lisa) Neas of Newport and Dr. Andy Roberts of Greenville; and three nieces, Beth Hembree of Greenville, Sally (Carroll) Allen of Morristown, and Jeannie Cutshaw of St. James. The family would like to say a very special Thank You to Smoky Mountain

Home Health and Hospice and her caregivers, Sandy, Shawnee, Paige, Lacle and Vera..

Memorial gifts may be sent to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 140 Lincoln Avenue, Newport, TN 37821 or to Cocke County Relay for Life.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at Manes Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, June 8, 2023, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, with Steve Thompson officiating. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at: www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Receive Friends

JUN 7. 5:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel
363 East Main Street
Newport, TN 37821

Funeral service

JUN 8. 10:00 AM.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Burial

JUN 8 (ET)

Union Cemetery Inc
420 Mineral St
Newport, TN 37821-3900
(423) 623-6918

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Sharon and Robin, addressing Christmas cards- thinking hadn't heard from your mother for a while. Researching just now read the obituary. My deepest condolences. Loved your mom, even though hadn't seen her for several years. Last time with Margaret when she was at golf course. Believe she lived a good life. She was always so good to me when I went to Aunt Della's as a kid. I remember your Daddy coming to S&S restaurant the morning Larry was born. Lind Kay Shelton Lyle, Erwin, Tn.

linda S Lyle - December 12, 2023 at 07:56 PM

JE

“ I just now saw this sorry for your loss love Justin and Tracey Ellison

Justin Ellison - September 23, 2023 at 12:33 AM

FH

“ Felicia Hux lit a candle in memory of Evelyn Smith



Felicia Hux - July 01, 2023 at 06:01 PM

RR

“ Sharon and Robyn, as I do not have your addresses I will send my deepest condolences to you and the entire family here. As you probably know your mother was like a second mother to me and dad was like a second father. I will always cherish the times I spent with them while living there and visiting when I returned home for visits. They were both angels in the life of my own mother. She will be greatly missed by all. Ronald Robeson.

Ronald Robeson - June 13, 2023 at 04:31 PM

JE

“ Sharon sorry for your lost your mom was as sweet as you. Your family is in our prayers. Bob&Chip and Jeannie

Jeannie - June 10, 2023 at 02:46 PM

LC

“ So sorry to hear about Evelyn. I will have you in my thoughts and prayers

Leonard and Phyllis Combs - June 09, 2023 at 12:51 PM

AM

“ We will miss sweet Evelyn. She was always smiling and so kind. I will be praying for all of you. Alyce Moore

Alyce Moore - June 09, 2023 at 09:12 AM

MS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. She was a remarkable lady.

Mitzi Satterfield - June 09, 2023 at 09:10 AM

WW

“ I am so sorry for your loss, sending hugs and prayers &

Wilma Webb - June 08, 2023 at 10:36 PM

BS

“ Sharon & all the family my prayers are with you. Your Mom was a precious lady. May God grant you strength & peace in the upcoming days. ❤️

Brenda Shadden - June 08, 2023 at 09:02 PM

ML

“ I am so sorry for loss of such a sweet woman. My prayers are with the entire family at this sad time.

michelle Lovell - June 08, 2023 at 02:10 PM

PP

“ May His love and His presence bring you peace and comfort.

Pauline Proffitt - June 08, 2023 at 09:46 AM

MT

“ Prayers for comfort in the coming days

Mae S Testerman - June 08, 2023 at 04:11 AM

BB

“ Evelyn was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her caring sweet personality poured over everyone she met. You will be sorely missed. You fought the good fight and won the race. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are with each and every one of your precious family.

Becky & Charlie Boggan - June 07, 2023 at 09:24 PM

JC

“ *With deepest sympathy
Jan Carpenter*

Jan Carpenter - June 07, 2023 at 08:32 PM

JB

“ *So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and
prayers are with you and your family. Jimmy
and Charlotte Blazer*



Jimmy and Charlotte Blazer - June 07, 2023 at 06:51 PM

DM

“ *Evelyn was such a wonderful, classy lady. It was a privilege to have
such a great Christian example. She was always kind and had such
a peaceful countenance. She will be dearly missed.
Joey & Diana McGaha*

Diana McGaha - June 07, 2023 at 05:45 PM

KB

“ *We are so sorry over the loss of Evelyn. She was such a kind and
compassionate lady. She loved her family so much and was such
an asset to our community. Thoughts and prayers for each of you.
She will surely be missed
Karen and Laraine*

Karen Hance Butler - June 07, 2023 at 04:10 PM

JB

“ This is Jeanne Wilson Birdwell again. I just had a call from Claude Smelcer. He had a heart valve put in yesterday in Johnson City and is back home. He, too, was very upset hear about Evelyn, and is very sorry that he cannot get to see the family since he has known all of your folks always. He is 93 now - the outcome was-- The Doctors said "you cannot drive for 4-6- weeks". I told him that I was not able to go and did not think he should so I would write you for him. We will all be together someday. Your family has so many friends. Prayers from all. Sharing for Claude Smelcer in Parrottsville

Jeanne Birdwell - June 07, 2023 at 03:54 PM

TF

“ So sorry for your loss. May God hold you, help you, and see you through this difficult time. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted".

Matt 5:4

With Heartfelt Deepest Sympathy,

Jabo & Tammy Francis

Smoky Mountain Home Health & Hospice

Tammy Francis - June 07, 2023 at 03:45 PM

IE

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. May God bless and comfort you all in this difficult time.

Ila Ruth Edmonds - June 07, 2023 at 12:56 PM

MW

“ We remember Evelyn very fondly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sharon and all the family.

Mackey, Michelle, Holly, & Matthew Winter

Mackey Winter - June 07, 2023 at 12:16 PM

YS

“ I will always remember Evelyn and I.J. as being my favorite people when we were at K's Drive In. They were there every day for lunch and sometimes breakfast. She was an absolutely lovey lady . Great memories of a Great Family. Sharon, and family, I pray God will surround you with His Mighty Love and Peace. ❤️🙏🌻

Yuvonda C. Seal - June 07, 2023 at 12:08 PM

JB

“ To all Family: I want very much to be there with you today! She was a special lady in my life and in so many others. I have missed her for some time! I am thankful she has a lovely family who have taken wonderful care of her! She and your Dad were as great as folks could be to everybody. My prayers are with you. Thank you for being a great family! Jeanne

Jeanne Birdwell - June 07, 2023 at 11:50 AM

DG

“ To Sharon and family I am so sorry for your loss.I pray for God's comfort and strength now and the days to come. Darlene and Jeff Gorrell

Darlene Gorrell - June 07, 2023 at 11:27 AM

DG

“ Jennifer, sorry for your loss.
Donna and Cecil Gilland

Donna Gilland - June 07, 2023 at 10:52 AM

MM

“ We are very sorry to learn of Evelyn’s passing. She was a classy lady who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Prayers for comfort and peace.

Lynn and Martha Murray



Martha Murray - June 06, 2023 at 09:55 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelyn Neas Smith.



June 06, 2023 at 08:11 PM

Pat
Evans
Larry
Stephenson

“ We are so sorry to hear about Evelyns passing. Our sincere condolences and prayers are with you all...

Brenda McMillan and Patty Evans Stephenson



Pat Evans Larry Stephenson - June 06, 2023 at 07:32 PM

RG

“ We will be praying for the family during your time of loss.

Rev. Eddie and Gail Gray - June 06, 2023 at 06:47 PM

JL

“ I have known Evelyn all my life and I have so many memories of both her and I J. They were great caring people. I remember "in my younger days" spending the night there and she was so good to us and she would just laugh. I know how much she loved and enjoyed her family. I remember seeing her in her yard and I would always blow at her. Also, at Christmas I always looked forward to her decorating her house, it was always beautiful. Also, on Facebook after she when to Wellington i loved seeing the pictures of her when they took them out and had things there. She always was a happy person. I know mother and daddy was there with I J to welcome her to heaven. God bless her families. I sure will miss her.



Joy Large - June 06, 2023 at 01:35 PM

LD

“ Such a sad, physical loss for not having Evelyn with her family, church and community, but what a wonderful legacy she left here, and what a joyous blessing she is receiving now! Prayers to all who love her. All of you are blessed to have had her presence in your lives as long as you did. May God bring peace and comfort to all of you for your broken hearts. Her spirit & love remains with you forever!



Matthew 5:4

Linda & Bud Dawson - June 06, 2023 at 01:19 PM



“ Prayers for the family.

Betty Harrison - June 06, 2023 at 12:21 PM

PW

“ Thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort now and in the days ahead.

Parker & Nanette Wilds - June 06, 2023 at 11:46 AM

BC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time of loss.

Bobby & Gail Clevenger - June 06, 2023 at 11:40 AM

DC

“ To paraphrase Charles Dickens: If anyone knew how to keep Christmas, it was Evelyn Smith. God bless you, Evelyn, and God bless us everyone.

Duay, Kay, Amber, and Connor - June 06, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Evelyn Neas Smith.

June 06, 2023 at 11:06 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelyn Neas Smith.



June 06, 2023 at 11:06 AM

LB

“ Praying for all loved ones and wishing you moments of peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.

Larry and Vickie Butler - June 06, 2023 at 10:13 AM

RR

“ My heart goes out to your precious family. Such a class act and was an amazing person. She done so many wonderful things for others. May God comfort her wonderful family during this very difficult time. Lots of prayers for all of you 🙏💕🙏

Rhonda Rice - June 06, 2023 at 09:49 AM

SB

“ So sorry to hear of Evelyn's passing she was a wonderful lady and I enjoyed visiting with her. She will be sadly missed by all who had the blessings of knowing her. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.



Susan Ball - June 06, 2023 at 09:20 AM

CR

“ Evelyn was a wonderful lady always kind to everyone she will be missed by many Rest high on that mountain your work here on earth is done

Cookie Ramsey - June 06, 2023 at 08:48 AM

TD

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of such a wonderful woman. Thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends during this time.



Tiffany Southerland Dobbins - June 06, 2023 at 07:43 AM

SH

“ Prayers for her precious family. I love Evelyn. We had many good times She will be missed terribly. Heaven gained a beautiful angel



Sandy Hurley - June 06, 2023 at 05:58 AM

TL

“ Sharon, Robyn and Family ; sorry to hear about your Mother. My thoughts are with you during this difficult time .

Tura Lawson - June 05, 2023 at 10:32 PM

BJ

“ Our sincerest and deepest sympathy. May the Lord comfort each of you during this time of tremendous loss.

Bettye & Carl Jay Carver, Jr. - June 05, 2023 at 08:04 PM

RH

“ I'm so so sorry. I love Evelyn so much missing her. Much love and many prayers.

Randy and Sandy Hirley - June 05, 2023 at 07:20 PM

AM

“ Sorry for your loss. The family will be in my thoughts and prayers.
Ashley Hensley Moody

Ashley Moody - June 05, 2023 at 06:46 PM

CB

“ Our condolences & prayers for your loss. Evelyn was a precious lady

Connie & Marsha Ball - June 05, 2023 at 06:35 PM

CA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.. 🙏❤️

Carroll and Marilyn Austin - June 05, 2023 at 05:57 PM

VB

“ To this beautiful family,
Your mother, grandmother, great-grandmother etc, was a beautiful soul. Her smile could light up a room and her laugh was contagious. I have so many memories of her from Holy Trinity, to yard sales, to just hanging out with Sharon. I want you all to remember how very blessed you have been to have basked in her glow for so many years. I am in Arkansas, so I won't be able to be at the funeral home, but know that my love, thoughts, and prayers are with you. My heart rejoices with Evelyn though. Sharon please know that I love you so very much. I always have and always will. Be strong, faithful and proud to be her daughter. See you when I get home.

Vickie Belcher - June 05, 2023 at 05:15 PM

SO

“ Sharon, Robyn, Sheri..... and all the family: I am so sorry to read that Evelyn has passed away. What a true lady she was. Everyone that knew Evelyn loved her. She was so kind to Joy and me when we were growing up. It was always fun coming to your house and staying all night. Your mom was a lot of fun and made us feel soooo welcome. Evelyn Smith was one very fine lady, and no doubt that she was welcomed into the gates of heaven. I am praying for this family that I love so much. God be with you all. Rest in peace my friend Evelyn. 💔



Susie O'Dell - June 05, 2023 at 04:06 PM

RG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time .



Ron and Debbie Greene - June 05, 2023 at 01:53 PM