



## Mary Evelyn (Clark) Smith

August 17, 1933 - August 14, 2025

Mary Evelyn (Clark) Smith

Mary Evelyn Smith of Del Rio passed away on August 14, 2025 in Knoxville surrounded by

her loving children. She was 91.

Evelyn, as she was known to all, was born in 1933 in Emory Gap, Tennessee, the first child

of Homer and Wilma Clark. Her father was a widower with four children (two sons, two

daughters) when he married her mother. During her early childhood, the family lived in

North Carolina and Virginia where the family continued to grow and grow. She loved being

the “little sister” to her older siblings but all too soon had the “not so much fun” role of “big

sister” to four “sometimes unruly” younger brothers and a sister. The family moved to Del

Rio at the end of World War II. Evelyn graduated from Cocke County High School in 1950,

Salutatorian of her class, at the age of 16. In less than a year, she eloped with the love of her

life, Ernest Lloyd Smith of Del Rio.

Lloyd had just completed basic training for the U. S. Air Force and was soon

deployed to

Warrington, England. In the spring of 1952 when she was 18, Evelyn traveled alone, by ship,

to join him in England. Their daughter, Debbie, was born during their three-year stay there.

After Lloyd's discharge, they moved to Nashville where he attended trade school and became a welder. They soon welcomed the birth of their son, David. Because of Lloyd's job, they moved to Virginia; they also began building a house in Del Rio. In early 1962, they were in the process of moving home to Tennessee in anticipation of the birth of their third child. Their son, Darryl, decided to enter the world earlier than expected while still in Virginia. They took this delay in stride and with their family now complete, they moved into the home they built with their own hands in Del Rio where they would spend the rest of their lives.

Evelyn's main focus in life was being the best wife and mother she could be.

Despite giving

100% of herself to that endeavor, she still managed to do so much more. She maintained the records for her husband's business, was a teacher's aide in the Head Start program in

Newport for 22 years and then learned to be a travel agent. For nine years she was a travel

agent, a job that gave her the opportunity to travel to the Hawaiian Islands, several

Caribbean Islands, Ireland, Prague and she fulfilled her lifelong dream of seeing Paris where she traveled alone to celebrate her 62nd birthday. She then retired and took care of her mother-in-law until her death. Just after her 65th birthday, she returned to school at Walter State College to complete her education. This renewed her passion for writing. She leaves a legacy of her beautifully written heartfelt poetry and stories. Then Lloyd became seriously ill. She gave him the tenderest of care for several years until he passed in 2014. Evelyn was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and human

being. She personified the very best of qualities - unconditional love, strength of spirit and unending generosity, evident in the way she cared for her family and friends. She loved the color blue, East Tennessee autumns, and Diane Bible's home baked cinnamon rolls. She was never seen in public with a hair out of place, a wrinkle in her clothing or a frown on her face. She baked the best cornbread in Del Rio. You never left her table hungry, always had more than one choice of desserts and she did the dishes (claiming it was her therapy). Her faith in God was steadfast and she prayed for those whose political beliefs differed from hers because "their poor little brains were wired wrong." For such a tiny woman, Evelyn Smith leaves a mighty big hole in our hearts.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Lloyd, and beloved grandson,

Gabriel Shell; brothers, Jimmy, Jack, Stan, Bill and Gerald Clark; sisters, Thelma Lentz and

Opal Barrett and daughter-in-law, Karen Smith. She is survived by daughter Debbie (Don)

Shell of Knoxville, sons, David Smith of Johnson City and Darryl (Kim Cook) Smith of

Knoxville, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sister Ginger (Wayne) Firth of

Virginia and brother Ron (Kathy) Clark of Pennsylvania.

A service will be held at graveside, 11:00am, October 18, 2025 at the Clark Cemetery in Del Rio. In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved inside Deep Gap Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of two things close to Evelyn's heart: Del Rio First Church of God for the Wednesday Suppertime Ministry % Diane Bible 1065 Flat Top Way Del Rio, TN 37727 Or Central Baptist Bearden for Alzheimer's Tennessee's

Hearts Sing! Chorus at Central Baptist Bearden 6300 Deane Hill Drive  
Knoxville TN 37919.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at: [www.manesfuneralhome.com](http://www.manesfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT **18**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clark Cemetery  
630 Deep Gap Rd  
Del Rio, TN 37727

# Tribute Wall

GB

“ I loved when Evelyn would come to Bill’s Wear House to shop! She was a joy to serve-just a lovely person inside and out. I know her family will miss her so much. Praying for all of you.

Gail Burchette - October 13, 2025 at 07:43 PM

LH

“ Prayers!



Louise & Jimmy Hux - October 13, 2025 at 07:24 PM

DO

“ Evelyn’s beautifully written stories were such a welcome addition to the Newport Plain Talk’s special editions featuring historical topics. She contributed greatly to the recording of local history.

Duay O’Neil - October 13, 2025 at 04:13 AM

WF

“ It would be a rare event if Evelyn did not have a pot roast dinner ready for us when we arrived to visit her. If the meal was not ready she would assure us that she would have a meal ready “in a jiffy.” One thing that was guaranteed, though, was at least three kinds of dessert would be laid out. Evelyn would pass on the pot roast and go directly to the sweet treats. I will miss my sister-in-law, greatly.

Wayne Firth - August 27, 2025 at 06:11 PM

GA

“ *My sincere condolences. Evelyn was the sweetest lady. I cut tobacco on her farm as a teenager and as you can imagine I was very dirty but she welcomed me in her home to use her bathroom. She was always kind and a very caring lady. She will be remembered by many.*



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**Glenda Willis Allen** - August 27, 2025 at 03:45 PM

TF

“ *May God's loving presence comfort you. His perfect peace restore you, and His promise of eternal life sustain you during this time of loss.*

*With Heartfelt deepest Sympathy,  
Jabo & Tammy Francis  
Smoky Mountain Home Health & Hospice*

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**Tammy Francis** - August 27, 2025 at 10:31 AM

JO

*I'm so sorry to hear of Mrs. Smiths passing. She was indeed a lovely lady. Always smiling and always a kind word. I'm praying for your family. Debbie I love you.*

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**Joyce Hall Ogle** - November 08, 2025 at 08:02 PM