



Irene Smith

November 5, 1924 - December 1, 2020

SMITH

IRENE (NEE VENDIG)

Age 96. Died of congestive heart failure on November 30, 2020. Daughter of Morales and Verna (nee Flenner) Vendig of Philadelphia, she graduated from Olney High School and attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to study art. While living in Wilmington, NC, she met Sgt. Warren M. Smith, Jr., a Penns Grove, NJ, native and they were married in 1943. The following year she gave birth to a daughter Jean and eight years later, a son Glenn. After the war, the family eventually moved to Carneys Point, NJ, which became her beloved hometown. For 65 years she was an enthusiastic supporter of all things Carneys Point/Penns Grove—the Y, the library, the Presbyterian Church, the Little League and Babe Ruth League, the high school teams on which her children played, the Flower Mart, Derby Day, the Sportsman’s Club, the Historical Society, the Cub Scouts and the holiday parades on Shell Rd. Many longtime residents remember her primarily as an enthusiastic devotee of aerobic classes for decade after decade at the Y, an activity she continued to roll up her exercise mat under her arm and walk to from her home until she was 90 and graduated to fitness classes at Merion Gardens Assisted Living. For a woman who was primarily a homemaker famous with her children’s friends for her cold juice drinks and cream puffs, she had a surprisingly broad job resume—shipyard draftswoman, hotel cashier, office manager, photographic tinter,

encyclopedia saleswoman and fashion model. She volunteered at the Y to teach lingerie making, hat construction, and gift wrapping, at the Historical Society as a docent and archivist, at Salem Hospital as an aide and made posters for her husband's monthly safety talks at DuPont. In addition she was an avid bridge player and found a creative outlet in cooking, sewing, and crafts. In later years she was known for her extensive antique toy collection that she enjoyed sharing with visitors at Christmas time. She is predeceased by her parents and her husband. She is survived by her daughter and son and his family including grandson Mattson Smith (Taylor Ivy), granddaughter Karlie Cain (Matt) and great granddaughter Kennedy. She is also survived by her sister Jean V. House of Hampton, VA, her niece Karen House, and her nephews Steven House (Cathi), Jim Smith (Anne), Bart Smith (Terry), and Neil Smith, as well as by a number of very loyal friends and neighbors from her hometown. She has chosen not to have a funeral, but donations in her memory either to the Historical Society, 48 W Main St., Penns Grove, NJ 08069 or to Life Connections of the Carolinas, a nonprofit started over twenty years ago by her son. dedicated to working with at risk youth at 420 East 15th St., Charlotte, NC 28206 or www.lifeconnections.us, would be a wonderful way to celebrate her life.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ 3 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Jean V. Smith - December 10, 2020 at 03:22 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Jean V. Smith - December 10, 2020 at 03:18 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Jean V. Smith - December 09, 2020 at 08:20 PM

LP

“ Jean, Glenn and Family,

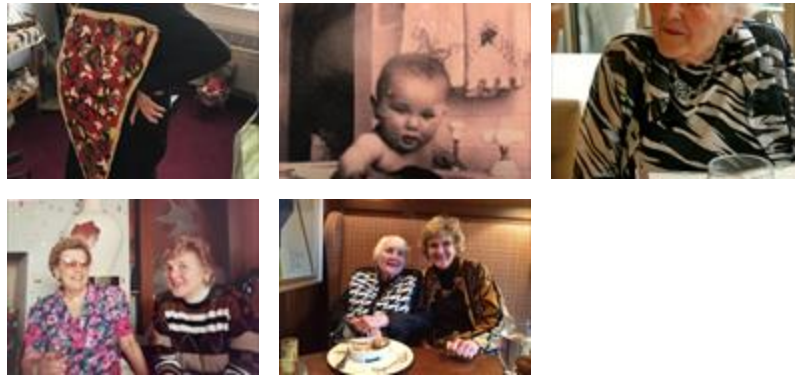
Irene was a wonderful neighbor and friend. She often brought a smile to us with her love of life, and joyful personality. Our visits, and calls to keep in touch will be missed very much. We are so grateful and honored to have known Irene. She was an amazing woman, and we will cherish our memories of her! Thinking of all of you.

Love, Larry and Paula

Larry and Paula - December 07, 2020 at 10:13 AM

JS

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Jean Smith - December 06, 2020 at 08:30 PM

CC

“ *Such a lovely woman in many ways. She always brought a smile with her when she entered a room. So much to learn from the way she lived her life. Irenan, You will be missed.*

carl candeloro - December 05, 2020 at 10:26 AM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of Irene’s passing. For the last dozen years or so, Irene was one of the “Jersey Girls” - a group of senior women who would come see my Dame Edna shows. She always laughed and was so supportive. A lovely, classy, fashionable, woman- both the Dame and I will miss her! Love & prayers to her family.

Scott Mason - December 04, 2020 at 09:59 AM

CM

So sorry to hear of Irene's passing, such a lovely person.

Connie Migliore - December 06, 2020 at 10:08 AM