



Obituaries



RICKI BURRELL SMITH

Ricki Burrell Smith, age 69, passed away at Oktibeha County Hospital in Starkville, Mississippi, on Monday, February 15, 2021, after battling pneumonia complications over the past two weeks.

Ricki is survived by her husband of 52 years, Roy Lee Smith; her three daughters, Misti and her husband Chadd Garnett with their four children, Todd, Jacob, Lily and Rose, Cristi and her husband Darrell Bolin and their three children, Tyler, Parker and Baylee, and Betty Helen and her husband Heath Dye and their two children, Emmet and Mazie. Ricki is also survived by her two brothers, Bill Burrell of Durant, Mississippi and Sammy Burrell of Meridian, Mississippi.

Ricki was born on July 9, 1951, in Durant, Mississippi, to Frank and Betty Burrell, both deceased.

Ricki graduated from Durant High School in 1969 and later Oxford Cosmetology School. Afterward, she worked as a beautician for 35 years.

Ricki and Roy fell in love during third grade but waited to get married in their senior year on November 16, 1968, in the courthouse. They had their "church wedding" on their 50th anniversary. What a pair! They took on life in all its ups and downs together for 52 years.

Together, they created three lovely daughters, Cristi, Misti and Betty Helen. When talking with Ricki's daughters, there is a recurring theme: Ricki saw her family as a gift from God and treated them as the treasures they are. She was proud of them no matter what, and that kind of love flowed over to her grandchildren.

Misti says the two most significant memories of her mother are loving her family and connecting over afternoon coffee. Ricki brought coffee to the whole clinic staff, customized to each person's exact preferences. "Everyone loved 'Ms. Ricki's coffee'," says Misti.

Cristi says she didn't understand the full value of what Ricki taught her until

she had her own child. She found herself prepared to care for her family.

What Betty Helen recalls of Ricki is always being her biggest supporter. From childhood sports to our afternoon phone calls, "I always knew Mom was my number one fan!"

Roy identifies Goldilocks as their fourth child (of the four-legged, furry variety). He recalls Goldilocks getting out of the yard one day and crossing Highway 82. Goldi survived, but Roy insists that we would be reading his obituary if any harm had come to her.

Roy goes on to say their family will grieve for Ricki and remember her as "the most wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and dog mother."

Ricki enjoyed going, whether it was shopping with her friends or visiting with her family. She also volunteered at church and loved cooking for everyone, especially her signature dish, taco soup.

Ricki loves God. She and Roy recently moved to Mathiston, Mississippi, and joined First Baptist Church of Mathiston. Before that move, they lived in Starkville and were highly engaged in Faith Baptist Church members for 30 years. Wherever they have been, her love for God is shown brightly through her vibrant personality and thoughtful touches with others. If she could say anything to those she leaves behind, it would be, "God is in the business of healing broken hearts and mending our wounds (Psalm 147:3). Lean into God and one another as you grieve now and let God heal you and restore you."

A celebration of Ricki's life was held Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Brother Ken Parvin officiated the ceremony. Visitation was held on the prior evening on Monday, February 22, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Mathiston First Baptist Church in Mathiston, Mississippi. Burial was at Memorial Garden Park in Starkville, MS.

You may go online at www.welchfuneralhomes.com to leave a condolence.

ERIC WAYNE FAGAN

Eric Wayne Fagan ("Fro"), age 37, most beloved son, brother, and family member went to be with his Lord Jesus Christ on February 20, 2021.

Only at age 38, he affected many people at the time of his passing.

He is survived by his mother Rose Kuhn Scales (and Ray); brother Justin Fagan (and Brit); nephews, Aubrey Fagan, Jack Fagan; nieces, Jordyn Fagan, Sienna Scales; step-sister Ashely Scales (and Darrin); step-brother Trey Scales (and Ashli); grandmother Doris Kuhn; uncles, Ronnie Kuhn (and Betty), David (and Kathy), Tommy (and Debbie); aunts, Susan Bonner (and Larry), Jodi Vaughn (and Martin); and a host of cousins.

He is preceded in death by his father Donnie Fagan, grandfather Eugene Kuhn, grandfather Jack Fagan (and Alease), uncle Ricky Kuhn, and uncle Michael Fagan.

Eric was born on December 2, 1983 at University Mississippi Medical Center.

He attended Woodland Hills Academy. He was an avid chess player and won numerous awards. He also played cello in Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra.

He was a past employee of the City of Brandon and a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson.

His artist hobbies including wood carving and painting.

Eric was a die-hard Ole Miss fan and loved attending games in Oxford and tailgating in The Grove.

He was an adventurous outdoorsman and loved fishing, swimming and four wheeler riding. As a child he spent many a summer at his grandparents farm in Lexington which nurtured his love for the outdoors.

Eric was a dreamer who traveled many roads which fueled his wanderlust for life. While he battled and overcame many challenges in his life, he also had a gentle side which only those closest to him were lucky enough to experience. Humorous and handsome, he was loved by many. He had an infectious smile and big heart and will be greatly missed. Eric was a loving son, devoted brother, playful uncle, and generous friend.

Visitation was held at the Sebrell Funeral Home in Jackson Mississippi on Wednesday, February 24 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. There was a graveside service at Coxburg Methodist Church afterwards at 3:30.

NANCY FARMER

Nancy Farmer, 66, of Lexington went to be with her Heavenly Father on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Nancy was born on August 31, 1954 to Noel and Geneva Self.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Jerry Farmer of Lexington; her children, Chris and Christina Farmer of Hot Springs, Arkansas as well as James Brown of Lexington; grandchildren, Chyenne Farmer, Seth Smith and Tim Clunan of Hot Springs, Arkansas; her brother and sister-in-law Guy and Rosemary Self of Lexington; along with many nieces, nephews and close friends.

Nancy was a beloved wife, mother, sister and friend. Many would say, however, that her proudest title was obtained when she became a "Nana." Anyone that knew Nancy knew she loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, more than anything. Nancy Jo was one of those people that helped any and everyone she could. She was a great role model, and will be truly missed by so many.

Pallbearers were Linwood Genous, Sam Chambers, Dereck Hodges, James Self, Franky Farmer and Chyenne Farmer. Honorary pallbearers were Justin Word, Johnny Word and Winford Ross.

There was a service held Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in the Sand Hill Community. Bro. Wayne Hudson and Bro. Trae Earnhart officiated.



JUANITA P. SMITH

Juanita P. Smith, adored mother, grandmother and great-grandmother transitioned from her earthly life of 93 years into her eternal life with her Heavenly Father on Sunday, February 21, 2021. Juanita was born in Tazewell, Tennessee on April 7, 1927 to the late Charley and Mattie Smith Payne. She resided in Lexington, MS for over 50 years where she was a devoted member of First Baptist Church. After retiring from the Mississippi State Employment Service she delighted in volunteering at church, gardening, reading and playing cards.

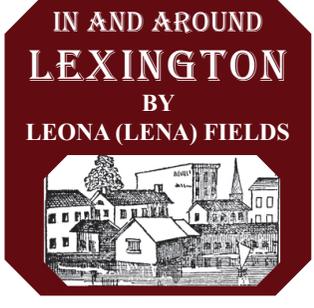
Juanita was a kind, loving, compassionate, independent Christian woman with a quick wit and sense of humor. She loved the Lord and her family and set an example for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that will them lead them all their lives.

Juanita will join her husband of 40 years, Winstead Douglas Smith in heaven. She will also be reunited with her four sisters and three brothers. She leaves behind her daughter Cindy

Smith Kusnierz (Terry); two grandchildren, Brian Kusnierz (Kathy) and Kelly Sims (Brian); four great-grandchildren, Molly and Haley Sims, Colin and Carter Kusnierz; a beloved sister Jimmie Walker; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at Odd Fellows Cemetery on Friday, February 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Memorials can be made in her memory to First Baptist Church, 200 Tchula St., Lexington, MS 39095.



Mrs. Thurmond, a member of the Lebanon M.B. Church, passed recently. Keep the Thurmond family uplifted in prayer.

A man everybody call "Smitty" passed recently. He was a veteran. I don't know what war he was in. Keep his family uplifted in prayer. I think he lived in Ebenezer.

I still want to know about Lexington having a bus station once upon a time. Call me at 662-834-1489.

I listened to Straight Talk by Miss Zep. Miss Zep is not the only one having problems. A whole lot of us had bad problems. I have central heat. I went to a friend's house for the snow and ice week. It's not good to be hard headed. One of my brothers in Coffeerville told me earlier last fall to go on and have someone put me a gas heater in my house. I did not do it. "Boy am I sorry." The lights went out. My refrigerator is out. It goes off everytime the electricity goes off.

Miss Zep will have to buy a whole house generator and store up a lot of water. The county needs to contract with someone that has a helicopter that can be used for emergency purposes.

I talked to one of my sisters, the mail did not run in Coffeerville either. So, Holmes County wasn't the only one without mail during the snowstorms.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M.

APPLICATOR TRAINING

There will be a Private Pesticide Applicator training and certification on Thursday, February 25, at the new Holmes County Extension office at 1 p.m. in Lexington. Betsy Padgett will conduct the training for those farmers and anyone else needing certification for their private use of "RESTRICTED USE" pesticides. This certification is NOT for those wanting to be certified for commercial application of "restricted use" pesticides. Registration for the training is on site and \$20.00 per participant. If you have questions, please call the Holmes County Extension Service Office at 662-834-2795. Please note—the Extension office has moved to 299 1/2 Yazoo St. in the Fred's Store parking lot – it

is the former Factory Connection building.

Also, this training is available ONLINE. Visit <http://msuext.ms/agmes> to access the Private Applicator training and testing online. \$20. Cost. The training will be presented in modules, exam will be online at the same time, upon completion and passing you will receive your private applicator certification from the MS Bureau of Plant Industry.

2-18,25

WEST GROVE M.B.C.

West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will host a Black History Program on Sunday, February 28, at 11:00 a.m. This event is free and open to the public.

2-18,25

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