



Janet "Jan" Rhodes Smith

December 11, 1935 - May 6, 2024

Janet (Jan) Rhodes Smith, went to be with her Lord on May 6, 2024 in Lakeland, FL with loved ones by her side. She was born in Charlotte, North Carolina on December 11, 1935 to Vivian and James H. Rhodes and moved with her family to Lakeland in 1978.

Janet was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, who was preceded in death by her husband, Richard C. Smith; son, Jim Rhodes and stepdaughter, Susan Smith Davoli.

She is survived by her loving family: daughter, Laurie Dreiser; son, Pete (Cindy) Shipe; daughter, Susan Shipe; stepson, Edward (Pam) Smith; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Judy Hollis of Charlotte, NC, sister-in-law, Judy Bosowski of Athens, TN and numerous nieces and nephews.

Janet was a member of Highland Park Church of the Nazarene and her strong faith was a cornerstone of her life. She was known as a dedicated prayer warrior, offering support and comfort to those in need. Her quick wit, delightful sense of humor and ability to light up a room with her infectious smile and sparkling blue eyes were qualities that endeared her to all. Her love for storytelling, passed down to her children, created a lasting bond between generations.

Professionally, Janet dedicated over 25 years to Watson Clinic as a medical transcriptionist. After retirement, Janet volunteered at Good Shepherd Hospice and served on the board of her neighborhood HOA for many years.

Beyond her career, Janet found joy in spending time with her family and friends, reading, traveling and adding to her extensive flower and cardinal collection. Her warm and inviting spirit shone brightest during the holidays, where she and her dear neighbor would transform their homes into scenes of joy and celebration.

Janet also cherished getting together with her former co-workers, turned lifelong friends and treasured the time spent at her weekly bible study group. Janet's impact extended beyond her immediate circle as she maintained friendships with three childhood companions for over 75 years, showcasing her loyalty and genuine nature.

A graveside service to honor and celebrate Janet's life will be held at Oak Hill Burial Park in Lakeland, FL on Saturday, June 15th, at 10:00am. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Good Shepherd Hospice in Lakeland, Florida, a cause that was close to Janet's heart.

Janet's legacy of love, laughter, and unwavering faith will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her. May her spirit continue to guide us, her memory bring us solace, and her love inspire us to live each day with the same grace and compassion she embodied.

Rest in peace, dear Jan. Your legacy of love and compassion will forever be cherished.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Burial Park

4620 US Highway 98 S
Lakeland, FL 33812

Previous Events

Graveside

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Oak Hill Burial Park
4620 US Highway 98 S
Lakeland, FL 33812

Tribute Wall

JH

“ I worked side by side with Jan about 40 years. She was funny, giving, loving and always had an infectious smile to cheer your day. We played trivial pursuit in a group and after retirement we had a group to meet once a week for lunch. Jan's name comes up at our luncheons and someone always has a fun story of her wonderful nature. Jan, you are truly missed.

Jill Humphrey

Jill Humphrey - June 16, 2024 at 01:14 PM

JB

“ Jan came into my family when I was 12 years old. I will always remember how excited I was to meet my new big sister. My parents, Ann and Pete Shipe loved her dearly and always looked forward to their visits with her and Dick. Jan was a warm loving person and I feel blessed to have been part of her life.

Judith Bosowski - June 14, 2024 at 08:01 PM

PE

“ Pam and Ed purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Janet "Jan" Rhodes Smith.



Pam and Ed - June 14, 2024 at 02:45 PM

AJ

“ Aunt Judy purchased the A Full Life for the family of Janet "Jan" Rhodes Smith.



Aunt Judy - May 30, 2024 at 02:48 PM

JB

“ The times I was able to meet her she was always so sweet and kind to me. I always appreciated her prayers when my dad was ill. Praying for Susan and family during this time.

Jill Bartley - May 30, 2024 at 01:05 PM

KS

“ Jan was a very special lady. I knew her from Watson Clinic also. She will be missed. Prayers to her family and many friends.

kathy smoot - May 25, 2024 at 03:41 PM

DT

“ Beautiful tribute to Jan. It captures her essence. I worked with Jan for probably 40 years and we became friends, I would say for a long long long time. She was part of a trivia pursuit group that played once once a month for many years. She was so darn smart. The answer she came up with that were correct just shocked us all. One other thing that we used to laugh about was when Jan would say to make a long story short, and then proceed with a long story. She didn't know the meaning of a short story. We used to cater a lot about that. I will surely miss her smile and her laugh. What a great lady

Debby Turner

debby turner - May 24, 2024 at 01:49 PM



Victoria
Ricks

“ *I worked with Jan at the Watson Clinic and also went to the same church. She will be missed. God speed Jan ...*

Victoria Ricks - May 24, 2024 at 06:52 AM

LD

“ *My mother was the woman who loved me all of my days, even when I was not meeting expectations. Her love was unspoken but everyone knew Mom's love encompassed you. Remember her love and share it. I know it will make you smile. Laurie Dreiser, eldest daughter*

Laurie Dreiser, eldest daughter - May 23, 2024 at 02:23 PM

JH

“ *Jan had a smile that would light up the room. Our WC Lunch Bunch will miss her terribly. RIP dear Jan. Love Jill*

Jill Humphrey - May 22, 2024 at 05:29 PM



“ *Jan became our neighbor first and then a dear friend and really a part of our family. We enjoyed all the times we spent with her and will miss her wonderful smile and laughter.
Pat and Sue Graham*

Sue Graham - May 22, 2024 at 05:23 PM

SS

Many times over the years, Jan and I had our beautiful chats about our love for our Lord. One day she shared one of her favorite life verses with me - Isaiah 55:12: "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." It's now one of my favorite verses, Jan. Thank you for sharing it with me. So many will feel your loss down here, but you knew that Heaven is not a place for "good" people, but for those who have accepted that Jesus died on the Cross for their sins, and you are now free from all sorrow, pain, and tears for eternity (Rev 21:4). I'm excited for you, and I'll see you at the gate!

Sandy Steele - May 27, 2024 at 07:03 PM

LT

Jan was a sweet and devoted friend to many including my parents who attended Highland Park Nazarene for numerous years with her.

Laurie Turner - May 28, 2024 at 10:35 AM

EM

Jan, I will miss you. You gave me the best friend I ever had, your dear son Jim, and for that I am forever grateful.

Ellen Massey - October 08, 2024 at 07:40 PM