



Shirley Smith

January 15, 1954 - March 12, 2017

Shirley Renee Smith, 63, of Conyers, GA passed from this life Sunday, March 12, 2017. A Memorial Service in celebration of Ms. Smith's life will be held Wednesday, March 15 at 1 p.m. at Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel. A native of Decatur, Georgia, Ms. Smith was a 1972 graduate of Columbia High School, where she played flute and was drum major of the marching band. She was a 1976 graduate of Jacksonville State University, earned a BSEd in Instrumental Music Education. There she was a member of The Marching Southerners for 5 years. Upon graduation, Ms. Smith worked several years as a music teacher and band director in Summerville, GA and Tarrant, AL. Ms. Smith was a 26-year employee of the State of Georgia. Among her several roles, she managed the Stone Mountain Railroad and the New Georgia Railroad. Most recently she served as an administrative assistant at the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission. Ms. Smith's talent and love of music lead to her involvement in several instrumental music organizations. Most notably, in 2004 she was a founder of Alliance Drum and Bugle Corps of Atlanta, a performing organization created with the intent to further music education while providing performers of all ages with an affordable drum corps experience. Prior to the creation of Alliance, Ms. Smith marched with the CorpVets (now Atlanta CV) senior Drum and Bugle Corps. Ms. Smith has been an active alumna of Jacksonville State University since her graduation. She has served as the president of the Atlanta Chapter of the JSU Alumni Association since 2011. In that year, the University awarded the

Atlanta Chapter for its outstanding performance. Her leadership has produced great results in student recruitment, scholarship funds and public awareness of JSU in Alabama and Georgia. On a personal level, Ms. Smith is remembered as a loving daughter, sister, aunt and friend. Everyone who knew her fondly remembers her as their cheerleader, confidant and relationship guardian. She bore witness to their life events, encouraged them in their trials and celebrated their joy. She was the rock of her family. In her circle of friends, she was the glue that held them together and the image of their closeness. Ms. Smith is survived by her sister, Joyce Smith Hodge, her niece, Marsha Hodge Potts, her nephew, Derrick (Michelle) Hodge, great-nieces and great-nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, Abner and Lucile Smith and her nephew, David Hodge, Jr. The family will receive visitors at Scot Ward Funeral Services on Tuesday, March 14 from 6 until 8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to JSU Foundation (New Performance Hall) Rock House, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, AL 36265. Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Service

MAR 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I just learned of Shirley's passing. I have truly lost a sister and a remarkable friend. Rest eternally in God's embrace.
Dawn Hampton, Rome, Ga.

Dawn Hampton - December 17, 2018 at 08:09 PM

DN

“ Dennis Nash lit a candle in memory of Shirley Smith



Dennis Nash - March 15, 2017 at 11:18 AM

VI

“ Shirley chose me to be her little sister at JSU. It was an honor! I wish she had told me how sick she was. She kept everything so private. I will miss my big sis.

Vickie - March 14, 2017 at 11:09 PM



“ Shirley and I were neighbors and went all through school together I was sad to hear of her passing. In recent years I would visit with Shirley when I would stop by GSFIC where she worked. Always friendly, very talented and kind.
Her family will be in my prayers. Ray Doster

Ray Doster - March 14, 2017 at 09:25 PM

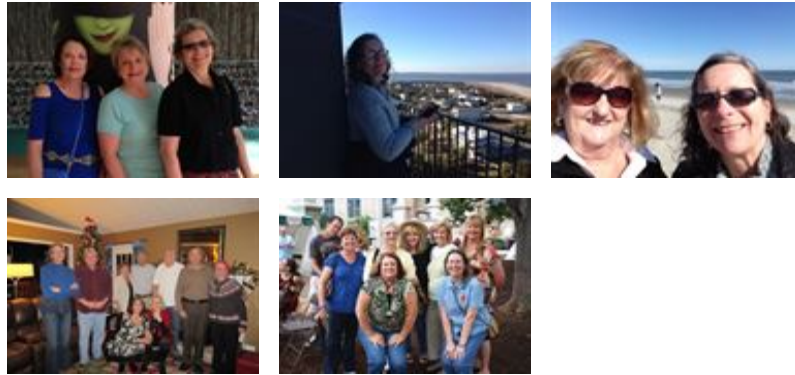
ET

“ My wife and I, both JSU music ed grads, mourn the loss of Shirley. Your family is being remembered in our prayers.

Ernie & Pat Thompson - March 14, 2017 at 07:41 PM



“ 28 files added to the album Life Tributes



Scot Ward Funeral Services - March 14, 2017 at 02:11 PM

EA

“ Mother and I will miss Shirley so very much. I have know Shirley since she was one year old, and watched her grow into a lovely person and a great musician. Although I was older than she, we became great friends, and that friendship has remained through the years. The memories will live on, but the world will be short one friend. Keeping Joyce and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Elaine Cardell and Adela Cardell Alley - March 14, 2017 at 11:15 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley Smith.*



March 14, 2017 at 09:33 AM



“ *Shirley was a beautiful person inside and out. She had a radiant smile, but I will miss her dry sense of humor most of all. The angels have gained their best musician yet!*

Shannon Witcher - March 14, 2017 at 06:42 AM



“ *I have several great memories of getting to know Shirley while being involved in JSU alumni activities. I will greatly miss her sense of humor. So sorry for the loss of this great lady.*
Emily Taylor Kuruc

Emily - March 14, 2017 at 05:59 AM

CA

“ Shirley was the first person that I met at GSFIC. I traveled for required training a lot the first year I was there and she arranged all of my flight, and lodging. I worked out of the office that she worked in for maybe three years before transferring out to a field office on the construction projects. She was always there to help me with the computer and reports. We were friends for over fourteen years. Shirley call me about three weeks ago to invite me down for Mr. Kerns retirement and she mentioned nothing about being sick. I wish that I had gone downtown for the party, but I had a bandage on the side of my face from skin cancer surgery and decided not to go.

Charles Abney, retired GSFIC 2015

Charles M. Abney - March 13, 2017 at 07:11 PM

CL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Celia Ledbetter - March 13, 2017 at 03:34 PM

CL

I am going to miss my sweet friend, Shirley, more than words can express. We became friends at Columbia High School, where we shared many happy times in the CHS band. We have remained great friends throughout the years. I couldn't have asked for a more loyal friend. She was a great listener and supporter. Rest In Peace, Shirley. Sending prayers and love to all of her family and friends. This picture is from a wonderful visit last October at Owen's BBQ in Villa Rica. We are with our friend, Debbie.

Celia Ledbetter - March 13, 2017 at 03:42 PM

PM

I was blessed to meet Shirley through our mutual friend, Celia, many years ago. I have wonderful memories of a small group of us taking beach trips together, laughing almost non-stop. In recent years, Shirley and I kept in touch by mail and email, and the handwritten notes I have from her are even more special to me now. She was a wonderful person who will be missed very much. Prayers for all her family and loved ones. May the Lord comfort you in the days ahead.

Patti Wilson Moore - March 14, 2017 at 10:49 PM



Alfreda Mabry

My Shirley. My Friend. We shared ALOT in conversation on Capitol Hill, glad I could impart encouragement into her life for the time that she was given.

*Always In My Thoughts,
~AlfredaM.*

Alfreda Mabry - March 15, 2017 at 09:43 AM

DA

“ Ms. Shirley was a special friend to me. She had a Personality that most people didn't understand. She was a very caring and lovable person. I will forever cherish our conversations, hugs and memories. I now have another Guardian Angel watching over me! You are now resting with the Lord.

Rest in Heaven my friend.

Dawn

Dawn - March 13, 2017 at 03:31 PM

KL

“ Shirley Smith was a patient here with us at GCS but she was more than a patient to me. Shirley was one of the most meekest and humble person I had the pleasure to care for. We will miss Shirley and pray for comfort and strength for her family in their time of mourning.



Keisha Lacewell, LPN

Keisha Lacewell - March 13, 2017 at 02:56 PM

GC

“ Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Shirley Smith.



Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission -
March 13, 2017 at 01:29 PM

LM

“ Shirley was my friend for almost 19 years - I will miss her.

Lee McElhannon

Lee McElhannon - March 13, 2017 at 12:44 PM