



Mrs. Veralee Smith

June 13, 1956 - October 15, 2017

Mrs. Veralee Smith, 61, of Peoria, IL transitioned to her heavenly home at 9:23 am on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at Unity Point Health Methodist Hospital.

Veralee was born on June 13, 1956 in Alton, IL to Maryella (Gray) and Irvin Wallace Riddlespriger. Veralee's lifelong appreciation for education began in the Alton, IL public school system. She moved to Peoria where she began working with Peoria District 150 as an office assistant. It was then she tirelessly began her pursuit of higher education. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Bradley University in 1992, later receiving her Master's Degree in Education from St. Xavier University in Chicago. Her passion for education and helping children led her to become an educator and later an administrator for District 150 schools for over 25 years.

Veralee had a zest for life and enjoyed helping others especially children. She had a passion for traveling, crocheting and dancing. She loved her family and spoiling her grandchildren. She had a beautiful smile that was a window to her soul. Everyone adored her. She accepted Christ at an early age and was a faithful member of Higher Dimensions Praise and Worship Church where she was church administrator. Veralee was also a proud member of the Peoria Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for over 22 years.

Veralee leaves to cherish her most precious memories her loving and devoted husband of 19 years, Wardine Smith of Peoria; her father, Irvin W.

Riddlespriger, Sr., of Alton, IL; one son, Tecumshea Stanley Holmes, II of

Hollywood, CA; four daughters, LaQuandrea Q. Smith of Dallas, TX, Tagwana D. (& Minister Harreld, Jr.) Webster, Andrea Q. (Wesley Weatherspoon) Smith and Brittaney R. Smith all of Peoria; four brothers, Irving (Diane) Riddlespriger, Jr., of Godfrey, IL, Ray Riddlespriger of Alton, IL, Danny (Antoinette) Riddlespriger of Killeen, TX and Joe (Debbie) Riddlespriger of Alton, IL; one sister, Ella Louise Mills of Alton, IL; six grandchildren, Madisen, Macy, Harreld, III, Kingston, Kyson and Kamari and one grandson on the way; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends who truly adored Veralee. She is preceded in death by her mother, Maryella Riddlespriger and grandparents, Clarence and Mary Gray.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at New Cornerstone Baptist Church with a visitation two hours prior beginning at 8 am. The Peoria Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., will render the Omega Omega Service beginning at 8 am. Host Pastor Rev. Dr. Mark A. McConnell. Minister Harreld Webster, Jr., will bring the eulogy and Rev. R. W. Randle, Pastor of Higher Dimensions Praise and Worship will officiate. Veralee will be laid to rest at Swan Lake Memory Gardens.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at SimonsMortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Swan Lake Memory Gardens

4601 W War Memorial Dr.
Peoria, IL 61615

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

New Cornerstone Baptist Church
3609 West Harmon Highway
Peoria, IL 61604

Visitation

OCT **21**. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

New Cornerstone Baptist Church
3609 West Harmon Highway
Peoria, IL 61604

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith*



Simons Mortuary - October 20, 2017 at 05:32 PM



“ *Mrs. Veralee Smith*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Veralee Smith*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Joanie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith*



Joanie Brown - October 22, 2017 at 11:34 AM

RM

“ Sorry I couldn't attend Mrs. Smith
Your Always in my HEART ♡ Thank you for
your kindness & Love you shared with us!
Cause of your teachings Kayla was Able to
Live Out her Dream majoring in Marine
Science ~ I couldn't Thank you Enough in so many ways tht u
touched our family lives! I'm sorry u had too Go So Soon! Sleep
Peacefully
Our Sweet 🙏🙏🙏🙏💖



Roxanne Mcghee - October 21, 2017 at 09:18 PM

SJ

“ I wanted to send my condolences to Tagwana and family. Your mom
was a very special lady. I will never forget the memories at Bethel.
You all are in my prayers, please know I'm thinking of you.

Love,

Shavon Johnson

Shavon Johnson - October 21, 2017 at 05:14 PM



“ V, you were the first person at Harrison to introduce yourself to me. That was 1998, and almost 20 years later we remained friends! You were consistently supportive, consistently positive, consistently REAL and away a good friend! We brought in this year together, celebrating another year! Our time together last Monday will always be in my heart. We sat quietly, just holding hands, then praying together. I put you in bed, kissed your forehead and told you that I loved you. And you, being V said, "Thanks for coming to see me." Driving away, I knew that I would never see you on Earth again! I will hold our last precious memory together for the rest of my life. It was meaningful, REAL and love! Rest at His feet! All my love...Tanya.

Tanya Johnson - October 21, 2017 at 04:53 PM



“ Percy &.ONNIE MACON lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Percy &.ONNIE MACON - October 20, 2017 at 05:28 PM



“ To the family of Veralee Smith,

I had the pleasure of working with Veralee when she was principal of Harrison. I always admired her warmth, sincerity, and professionalism. Her dedication to her students and their families was evident to all who worked with her. My sincerest condolences.

Marcy Coppernoll (retired - Hult Center)

Marcy Coppernoll - October 20, 2017 at 01:31 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Veralee Smith.



October 20, 2017 at 01:05 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Veralee Smith.



October 19, 2017 at 11:18 AM



“ *Rita Hinton* sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Rita Hinton - October 19, 2017 at 11:17 AM



“ *Annette Lucy* sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Annette Lucy - October 19, 2017 at 12:07 AM

ER

“ *From my family to yours, you have our deepest condolences.*

Debra Faye Bagby

Erica - October 18, 2017 at 10:22 PM

VD

“ *Valerie Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith*



Valerie Davis - October 18, 2017 at 09:50 PM

FD

“ *What a lady of class. Since the summer of 2000 when I started my teaching career as a summer school teacher at Harrison, I have always looked at Vera's example of patience, love, and dedication to students. Thank you for your words of encouragement and wisdom last year as my mentor as I embarked on the journey to continue the great legacy you left as the principal of Harrison. God will say, Well done! Rest in the arms of Our Heavenly Father.*

Fabian Daniels - October 18, 2017 at 09:20 PM

AS

“ I have never known someone so sweet and so about "taking care of business" at the same time. I have no words to express how your beautiful spirit will be missed Vera. You were an inspiration to all who were blessed to know you and be in your warm presence. Love you always and peace and blessing to your wonderful family and all who loved you.

Forever your friend and Delta Sigma Theta "Special" Arnitria

Arnitria Shaw - October 18, 2017 at 01:58 PM

CW

*Sending my love and prayers to the family and many friends whose lives she touched. She now has her wings.
Love- Cookie Wells- Sanders.*

Cookie Wells-Sanders - October 19, 2017 at 10:53 PM

WW

“ To the Smith Family. We are praying for you and your family. She was a wonderful person. May God bless you and your family.

*William & Willa
The Webster Family
Dardanelles,AR*



William & Willa Webster - October 18, 2017 at 01:53 PM

PB

“ Pamela Bledsoe sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Pamela Bledsoe - October 18, 2017 at 12:01 PM

PB

“ Pamela Bledsoe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Pamela Bledsoe - October 18, 2017 at 11:58 AM

TC

“ May the hand of God, embrace your heart during this time of loss!
Waters of Life Fellowship
5500 N Big Hollow Rd 61615
Pastor Therese Church

Therese Church - October 18, 2017 at 08:00 AM



“ I sure am going to miss you sharing love and laughter. RIP Ms. Veralee ❤️

Consuela Evans - October 18, 2017 at 12:52 AM

SN

“ Sonya Nunez lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Sonya Nunez - October 17, 2017 at 11:26 PM

AM

“ Amanda Malone sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Amanda Malone - October 17, 2017 at 11:11 PM

EC

“ Deepest sympathy to Ms Vera's family. Look to the hills from which cometh your help.



evelyn tate clayton - October 17, 2017 at 09:58 PM

MJ

“ Mary Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Mary Jackson - October 17, 2017 at 08:49 PM



“ Sorry for your loss prayers go out to family and friends have a blessed night in Jesus name amen rip in jesus name may the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all amen



Dorotha Williams - October 17, 2017 at 08:36 PM

CG

“ Chatea Green lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Chatea Green - October 17, 2017 at 04:55 PM

TW

“ Theresa And Richard Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Theresa and Richard Walker - October 17, 2017 at 02:22 PM

SR

“ Sidney Ross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Sidney Ross - October 17, 2017 at 02:06 PM

RN

“ Rufus & Kim Nelson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Veralee Smith



Rufus & Kim Nelson - October 17, 2017 at 12:57 PM

TJ

“ Mrs. Smith was a Great woman. She always put herself in the middle. She cared when no one else did. She was an inspiration to me and the many people, Helping build lives one family at a time. I love you Veralee. 🌹

Tiffany Jackson - October 17, 2017 at 12:10 PM

SK

“ To the family of Veralee Smith:

Please accept our deepest condolences for your family's loss. While I first knew her as a great mom to her children, many of our District staff knew Mrs. Smith as a great teacher, leader, principal and friend. Students, parents and staff all paid attention to her passionate climb from school secretary to teacher to assistant principal and finally to Principal of Harrison Community Learning Center and other administrative positions. She was an amazing example to those she served.

While I had the opportunity to work with her and son, Tech, when I was at the Urban League, I also worked alongside her several years later as a fellow principal. She was amazing at both jobs, parent and educator, as evidenced by the footsteps that Tagwana followed in her role as a teacher at Glen Oak Community Learning Center. Her expertise made her a great fit to help our district just last school year on a part-time basis with a parent engagement project. She loved kids and wanted to see them succeed, just as she had done. For that, our community is forever grateful!

May you be comforted by the outpouring of love surrounding you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent

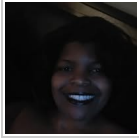
Sharon Kherat - October 17, 2017 at 10:48 AM

KD

“ *Taguana, Harreld, your children, Vera's husband and the rest of her family: I want to express my deepest, heartfelt sympathy for the much too early loss/passing of Vera (or as I always knew her "Mrs. Smith". I worked with Veralee when I was a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Unity Point Methodist Health Center at Harrison and Valeska Hinton Schools. She was a very kind hearted and friendly person, and I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity to know her! She will be missed greatly by many I'm sure :(My prayers and hugs go out to the family that God may ease their sorrow and surround you with his never ending love <3*



Karyn Dean - October 17, 2017 at 09:46 AM



“ *Grateful to God for the opportunity to pray and worship with such a Wonderful, Sweet, God Fearing, Faithful woman of God!! R. I. Love Sis. Veralee Smith...Min.Lorenzo & Helene Smith and Family!!!!*
j



Helene Smith - October 17, 2017 at 02:36 AM

AR

“ Veralee was a beautiful woman inside and out. She was my mentor, best friend, and a sister to me. She is definitely leaving an empty space in my heart. I will always remember her support, encouraging words, spiritual guidance, and the love she gave me. She was so excited to see me back at Harrison School and continue her legacy of helping the community and doing what's best for children! She was especially fond of the two cultures that brought the Harrison Family together. She was an incredible woman, mother, wife, educator, grandmother, and leader. I was truly blessed to have had her in my life! Heaven has opened the gates to welcome another Angel. Love you forever.

Anna Rose - October 16, 2017 at 11:57 PM

LG

The Giles family expresses our deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Veralee Smith. We met because of our children. But, our relationship continued due to professional contact and due to various Christian events where we would worship together. We know her to be a woman of faith, a beautiful person, committed to educating children, devoted to God and her family. We are grateful for the times we shared. We are shaken by this loss. But, we celebrate the life and legacy of our friend. We pray that God will comfort the family.

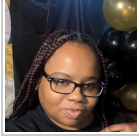
Lawson & Marilyn Giles and family

Lawson & Marilyn Giles - October 17, 2017 at 08:45 PM



“ Mrs. Smith You Will Truly Be Missed 😞😞💜 Omg You Kept Me Outta Trouble 7th Grade & Kept Yo Word To Come Visit Me 8th Grade Year 🙏💜 You Kept Yo Word On A lot & Always Looked Out For Me ❤️💯 I Was Expecting To See You Sometime This Freshman Year 😞😞 Rest In Peace Mrs. Smith We Love You 🙏👑❤️

Ro'Naija Pickett - October 16, 2017 at 10:03 PM



“ There are way too many memories to share for such a beautiful lady with a beautiful spirit my prayers go out to the family..May God be with you .Punkin



Koni Miles - October 16, 2017 at 09:53 PM

AB

“ What a beautiful, kind, loving and warm spirit! Veralee was a gift to us all, and her loss is deeply felt. Thoughts and prayers to her family. Our hearts are with you, and we thank you for sharing the gift of Vera with us.

Anna Brown - October 16, 2017 at 09:16 PM

KP

“ I remember working with u at Harrison Primary School with Mrs.Perkins,u were also so nice and kind to me.my thoughts and prayers go out to ur family.

Kelvin Parker - October 16, 2017 at 08:24 PM



“ Sorry for your loss weeping may remain for a night but rejoicing come in the morning prayer go out for family and friends rip in Jesus name amen May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all amen



Dorotha Williams - October 16, 2017 at 07:47 PM