



Gladys Black Smart

August 23, 1908 - November 20, 2014

SMART, GLADYS BLACK

passed away peacefully on November 20, 2014, at age 106, surrounded by her beloved family. She was born to Albert Franklin Black and June Adkins Black in rural Myra, West Virginia, on August 23, 1908, at the home of her paternal grandparents. Following her father's election as clerk of Lincoln County in 1914, the family moved from their country home to the county seat of Hamlin. Gladys, now seven, attended public schools for the first time, where her mother's home teaching led to her rapid advancement. She attended the new Carroll High School and graduated with honors. Gladys enrolled as a freshman at nearby Marshall College in Huntington, WV. But in March 1926, the family decided to move to Roswell, NM, hoping to improve her mother's declining health. Their stay in Roswell proved short because her parents wanted Gladys to continue her education in Albuquerque at UNM, then a small university with an excellent faculty. There Gladys was elected to Alpha Delta Pi, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Mortarboard. She remained active with these groups after graduation in 1929 and served on the UNM Alumni Board for several years. After graduation, Gladys accepted a teaching position with APS at Longfellow School. A year later, she went to Bush Conservatory in Chicago for a music degree. Returning to Albuquerque, Gladys taught Music and English at Lincoln Junior High School before moving to Washington Junior High. When WWII began, Gladys started three years' service in the American Red Cross as Hospital Recreation Director at Fort Bliss, Biggs

Field, Fort Leonard Wood, Camp Grant and Brooke Hospital in San Antonio. Once back home in Albuquerque, Gladys was appointed State Secretary for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Traveling around New Mexico engendered her lifelong devotion to New Mexico, its people, scenery and history. Gladys also volunteered with the YMCA travel committee. Then she was persuaded by Charles Renfro, P.E. and Recreation Director, to return to APS to help establish a recreation program for the city schools. Through her acceptance of this offer, Gladys met Capt. Warren A. Smart, ROTC Director at Albuquerque High. They were married in March 1949. He was soon appointed to set up Valley High School as its first principal. In 1955 he died unexpectedly following surgery. Gladys considered her greatest asset to be her friends and family, her greatest joy traveling in New Mexico, and her greatest achievement raising, with the help of family and friends, three rewarding children, Sharon Smart Neuman (Dick), Warren Smart, and Kathy Smart Morgan (Bill). She is survived as well by four grandchildren, Owen Kellum, Sarah Rohde (Aaron), Emily Lamberson (Steve), and David Morgan as well as four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by sisters Jan Black Roche and Alta Black Briscoe and by brothers Al Black and Ed Black. Services will be held Tuesday, November 25 at 11:00 a.m. at First Methodist Church, 314 Lead Ave. SW, with reception and burial to follow. Her family sends special thanks to Margaret Fell of Special Live-in Care as well as Rita Christopherson. Kusang Chodon, MaryAnn Bogdonovich, and Sharon Jolly for their loving care. Instead of flowers, the family suggests a donation to the McCurdy School, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Espanola, NM 87532; or the Ronald McDonald House, 1011 Yale Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106; or to the charity of choice. To share memories with the family, please visit Gladys's online guestbook at www.FrenchFunerals.com.

FRENCH - Westside

9300 Golf Course Rd NW

505-897-0300

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Park

924 Menaul Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 345-3536
info@sunset-memorial.com
<https://www.sunset-memorial.com/>

Tribute Wall

ES

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



Eileen Shannon - December 22, 2014 at 09:09 AM

ES

My mother (Bunny Kohlhaas Shannon) had this photo, which was her mom's (Leona Raillard Kohlhaas), a life long friend of Gladys's.

Eileen Shannon - December 22, 2014 at 09:12 AM

KR

“ *On behalf of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of New Mexico, we send our condolences to your family. Gladys has long been a friend of the House and she will always be a part of our family tree.*

Kristin Rortvedt - December 04, 2014 at 03:00 PM

LD

“ *Aunt Gladi touched so many people's lives. What an amazing woman and an amazing life! My most cherished memory of Aunt Gladi is when I got to spend the night at her place one December eve. She taught me how to bake her coveted biscochitos. Even at the age of ten I understood the significance of what she was passing on to me; love, family, tradition, and everything's better with a little splash of apricot brandy.*



LeeAnn Davidson - November 25, 2014 at 12:15 PM

MS

“ Gladys you were an amazing person. You will always remain in my heart. I see you, Alta and my mom (Mary Musolf) looking down on us from heaven. Once again reunited. Love You and Your Family Forever Margaret Sutton

Margaret Sutton - November 24, 2014 at 08:51 PM

RS

“ With sincere condolences to the family I was a cadet under Mrs Smart husband ay Albuquerque High In 1951- to 1953 and had the pleasure of meeting her . Robert O Jenkins Class of 1953

Robert O. Jenkins - November 24, 2014 at 03:14 PM

CW

“ I will forever treasure her warm welcome every time we met. I always smile and still hear her voice when I would ask how she was and she'd answer "Better now that I see you!" She was so genuinely proud of her children and grandchildren and loved them all greatly. I am blessed to have known her. Thank you Kathy, for sharing her with me.

Coleen Walton - November 24, 2014 at 07:42 AM

IT

“ She was an inspiration to her family. I am so glad I got to know her a little through Ron and Jenn Spradlin.
-Ilene Spradlin Taylor

Ilene S. Taylor - November 23, 2014 at 09:32 PM

AH

“ *The beautiful obituary did not cover nearly all of Gladys' accomplishments throughout her life for her friends and family. I was with my family a friend and individually a friend. Gladie was always so interested, supportive, helpful, and positive in all my encounters with her. She has become a role model to me as an adult and has been so for many years. I will always keep her kindness, fun, energy, enthusiasm in my memory and heart. No one is like her. Fly high dear Gladie . . . onward and upward my dearest friend. Love, Anne*

Anne Carol Cox Hayes - November 23, 2014 at 02:22 PM

KS

“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies we express our deepest condolences.*

Kristian Schmidt - November 22, 2014 at 02:54 PM