



## Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes

May 26, 1940 - June 28, 2019

Josephine (Jo) Smith Starnes, age 79, passed away on June 28, 2019 at Village Park Senior Living of Alpharetta, GA following a battle with Lewy Body Dementia. She passed peacefully surrounded by her children and under the care of Agape Hospice.

Born in Thomaston, GA on May 26, 1940, Jo was the youngest of nine children and raised in a loving, Christian home. At R.E. Lee High School, she was a star basketball MVP who led her team to the state championship tournament in 1958 which recently earned her induction into the Thomaston-Upson Sports Hall of Fame. Following high school, Jo moved to Atlanta to pursue a nursing career. She graduated from Piedmont Hospital School of Nursing in 1961 and enjoyed 40 years in various nursing roles, primarily public health. While living in Atlanta, Jo met Alvin Starnes of Raleigh, NC and they married in 1962. "Al" and Jo enjoyed 17 years together before his untimely death in 1979. They had two children, Brad and Anne, and lived in numerous cities before eventually landing in Faith, NC in 1975. It was there that Jo worked at the Rowan County Health Department for over 25 years and was a member of Shiloh Reformed Church. She was an elder of the church, served on the consistory, and traveled to Ukraine for a short term mission. She was named "Citizen of the Year" in 1990 by the Eastern Rowan Ladies Civitan Club for making a difference in her community. Following retirement, Jo moved to Griffin, GA, where she enjoyed active senior living in the Sun City

Peachtree Del Webb community for 10 years. There she made new friends, attended County Line United Methodist Church, and enjoyed traveling in her retirement. In 2018, Jo moved closer to family, where she lived her final days in the loving memory care environment of Village Park Alpharetta, an answer to many prayers.

Jo is preceded in death by her parents, Edward Eugene Smith and Mary Lizzie Walker Smith; husband, Alvin Bradley Starnes, Jr; brothers, James Smith, Billy Smith, Mancel Smith, Coneal Smith, and Marvin Smith; and sisters, Mary Ann Johnson and Sara Daniels. She is survived by one sister, Martha Bridgman Ellerbee of Thomaston; her son, Brad Starnes and wife, Elizabeth, of Franklin, TN; daughter, Anne Pryor and husband, Dayne, of Alpharetta, GA; and three grandchildren, Jackson Pryor, Addy Pryor, and Rebecca Starnes.

Jo was loved by everyone who knew her. She was quick to smile, offer a hand, and give a hug. She was an amazing mom, loving “Granjo,” faithful friend, and blessing to all.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 2:00pm at Northside Chapel Funeral Home, 12050 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075 with a reception immediately following.

# Cemetery Details

## Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Previous Events

## Celebration Of Life

JUL 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes.*



July 04, 2019 at 06:11 PM



“ *Anne and Brad our hearts are with you and you are all in our thoughts and prayers. We have lost a good friend. We have many good memories of us being neighbors and good times. I even cried on Jo's shoulder in Ga. after we moved back here. We will miss her very much.*

**Doris Morgan** - July 04, 2019 at 03:08 PM



“ *I went to high school & Piedmont Hospital School of Nursing with Jo & what a wonderful friend she was! So sorry & my condolences to her family.*

**Faye Carden Caton** - July 04, 2019 at 07:03 AM

MM

“ Mary Alice and Tim Taylor and Alice McMurray purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes.



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**Mary Alice and Tim Taylor and Alice McMurray** - July 03, 2019  
at 02:28 PM

L"

“ Love you, Cheryl (aka, "Lucy," aka, "Rachel") purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes.



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**Love you, Cheryl (aka, "Lucy," aka, "Rachel")** - July 02, 2019  
at 07:19 PM

TW

“ Telka Hall Weant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes



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**Telka Hall Weant** - July 02, 2019 at 11:16 AM

HB

“ My deepest condolences to the family. I hope the scripture at John 11:11, where the Bible likens death to a peaceful sleep, can provide some comfort at this time.

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**hb** - July 02, 2019 at 09:39 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes.



July 01, 2019 at 03:19 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes.



July 01, 2019 at 03:11 PM



“ Jo Ann Walker George lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes



**Jo Ann Walker George** - June 30, 2019 at 07:23 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine Smith Starnes.



June 30, 2019 at 06:25 PM