



Bethene E. Smith

May 14, 1926 - December 31, 2017

Bethene E. Smith, of Gahanna, passed away on December 31, 2017. On May 14, 1926 Shelby and Minnie Brink welcomed their daughter, Bethene Elizabeth, to their farm in Ford, KS, where she enjoyed growing up. She was afraid of Turkey Gobblers and Chicken gobblers. She enjoyed kittens, Guinea hens, and listening to the coyotes bark. She attended Ford Grade and High Schools, where she was involved in school plays, marching band, and served as MC of the school radio program on KGNO. After graduation, she moved to Dodge City, applied to several colleges to become a lawyer, was turned down and given the reason that women were not smart enough to be lawyers. She transferred to Business College, graduated, and went to work for the Ford County Farm Bureau.

Upon his return from WW2, Bethene met and married Harry E. Smith on April 18, 1946. Together they had two sons, Harry Jr. and Bradley. When Harry Sr. became employed with Western Electric, the family moved every few years until 1965 when they arrived to stay in Gahanna. The boys attended Gahanna High and Bethene became active with the Gahanna Swim Team and Band Supporters. When her children left the nest, she volunteered at Gahanna Historical Society, CAPA, Gahanna Theater, and Franklin Park Conservatory (Lifetime Volunteer Award). In 1987 she opened her home and heart to college student Kim Sheeran (Hall) to enable her to graduate from Ohio Dominican. Bethene is preceded in death by her parents and son, Bradley. She is survived by Harry Sr., her husband of nearly 72 years; her sister, Ellene Powers (Richard); son, Harry Jr. (Kerri Thomson) of Pataskala; Brad's widow, Nina (Melching) Smith of Longmont, CO; and nephew, Randy Powers.

The family will hold a reception at SCHOEDINGER NORTHEAST, 1051 E. Johnstown Rd., Gahanna from 1-3PM, Sunday, January 7, 2018, with time for reflection at 2:30PM. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Franklin Park Conservatory.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Schoedinger Funeral Service - January 06, 2018 at 09:39 AM



“ Just heard about Bethene. My heart goes out to all of you. I sit in my living room and think about all of you as I look at my lamp. Bethene and I picked out the lamp for her house and it was a wonderful wedding present. She will always be in my thoughts and prayers. Love to all, Doris Thiel Simonsen

Doris Simonsen - January 06, 2018 at 12:09 PM



“ Bethene became a second mother to me when my own mother passed away. She is the most loving and caring person I have ever met in my lifetime and she will forever be in my heart.

Love, Christine Judy

Christine Judy - January 06, 2018 at 10:30 AM