



Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith

July 4, 1950 - March 17, 2017

Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith, 66, of Bristol, TN earned her wings and was welcomed into her heavenly home on Friday, March 17, 2017. She was born on July 4, 1950. She was preceded in death by her father, local radio personality, Douglas "Doug Ford" Basford; her mother, Vertie Mae Smith Basford; granddaughter, Ruby Dixon-Cunningham; brothers, Robert, Jerry, and Judd Basford; and sisters, Margaret Allen and Jean Basford.

Darlene had a long and fulfilling career in nursing, initially completing her LPN training at the Slater Center in Bristol, TN and joining the staff at Bristol Memorial Hospital. She worked briefly at Humana Hospital in central Florida. Darlene continued her education and obtained an Associates Degree at VHCC in Abingdon, VA where she continued to work for several years. She had many friends and fond memories from this period of her life.

Darlene then found her true calling in home health care working as a Director of Nursing for the next 25 years. As a policy writer and Director of Nursing, Darlene was instrumental in the opening of two separate home health agencies located in Bristol, VA.

Darlene retired from nursing in 2014 to spend her golden years with her husband and love of her life, Joe. They spent a year in the mountains of Butler, TN before returning to Bristol, TN to make a home and be closer to their children and grandchildren. Darlene loved to travel, enjoying a honeymoon in Alaska, several trips across the country, one foray to Mexico and three trips to England, Scotland, Ireland, and France. She also loved the mountains and trips to Maggie Valley, NC. Darlene's other passions included writing, attending church at Rivers Edge in Elizabethton, going to the lake, boating, genealogy, taking care of her of grandchildren and spending time with her family.

Darlene is survived by her husband, Joseph Smith; her sister, Estella Bouton; daughters, Leslie Canipe and husband Robert, Angie Dixon and husband Randy Cunningham, Katie Dixon Sproles and husband James, all of Bristol, TN and Connie Lee and husband Erick of La Vergne, TN; son Anthony "Tony" Dixon of Bristol, VA; granddaughters, Aliese Bonn and husband Todd of Abingdon, VA, Sarah Canipe, Brittany Lee, and Raegan Sproles all of Bristol, TN and Madison Lee of La Vergne, TN; grandsons, Christian Roark and Logan Wayne McNew; three great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews; and uncle, aunts and cousins. The family would like to send special thanks to

Christian King, RN, Dr. David Astin, Michelle Snodgrass, FNP, and Bristol Tennessee lifesaving crew.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at Blevins Funeral & Cremation Services, 417 Lee St., Bristol, VA. The funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Ricky Jones officiating. The committal service and interment will follow at Hendricks Cemetery, Mendota, VA. Pallbearers will be Todd Bonn, David Mitchell, Colt Musslewhite, Chris Coffey, Clayton Grubbs and Michael Harless.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Blevins Funeral & Cremation Services
417 Lee Street
Bristol, VA 24201
friends@blevinscares.com

Funeral

MAR **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blevins Funeral & Cremation Services
417 Lee Street
Bristol, VA 24201
friends@blevinscares.com

Committal Service & Interment

MAR **22** (ET)

Hendricks Cemetery
Mendota, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Blevins Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Blevins Funeral & Cremation Services - March 20, 2017 at 01:36 PM



Estella, very sorry for the loss of your sister, she is in a better place now and at peace

David Johnson - March 21, 2017 at 07:04 AM



So sorry for your loss she will be deeply missed.i'll keep u in my prayers

Linda Langley - March 21, 2017 at 09:05 AM



“ *Katie Elizabeth sent a virtual gift in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Katie Elizabeth - May 13, 2017 at 09:50 AM



“ *Katie Elizabeth lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Katie Elizabeth - April 19, 2017 at 12:58 PM



“ *Angie Dixon lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Angie Dixon - April 07, 2017 at 05:00 PM



“ *Katie Elizabeth lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Katie Elizabeth - April 01, 2017 at 11:06 PM



“ *Angie Dixon lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Angie Dixon - March 27, 2017 at 11:49 AM



“ *Angie Dixon lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Angie Dixon - March 24, 2017 at 10:01 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Darlene and I worked together at Johnston Memorial in the 80s. There was never a dull moment with Darlene around. Leslie, I remember you working as a unit clerk. I pray for the good Lord to give all of you strength, peace and comfort.*

Jeni Osborne - March 24, 2017 at 05:57 AM



Mom talked about you my whole life. She loved you.

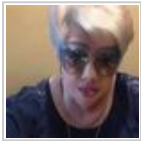
Angie Dixon - March 24, 2017 at 01:21 PM



“ *Angie Dixon lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Angie Dixon - March 23, 2017 at 10:00 PM



“ *Margaret French lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Margaret French - March 23, 2017 at 03:34 PM

JR

“ *Joey Cunningham And Jennifer Rowlett lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Joey Cunningham and Jennifer Rowlett - March 21, 2017 at 05:43 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith.*



March 21, 2017 at 01:33 PM

LM

“ *Katie and Family,
May God give you peace and comfort during this difficult
time.
Love and prayers,
Tim and Lisa McMurray*



Lisa McMurray - March 21, 2017 at 01:17 PM

KA

*Thank you Lisa. It has been unbearable. I am going to focus on work and my kids to
get through. I love you all.*

Katie - March 24, 2017 at 01:18 PM



“ *Aliese Puckett-Canipe Bonn lit a candle in memory of
Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Aliese Puckett-Canipe Bonn - March 21, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Darlene
Elizabeth Basford Smith.*



March 21, 2017 at 11:55 AM

MK

“ *Mandi Keene lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth
Basford Smith*



Mandi Keene - March 21, 2017 at 10:36 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith.*



March 21, 2017 at 09:26 AM

KH

“ *Dear Este, I worked with your father at WOPI, years ago, and heard many stories from him about you and your family. He loved you, Darlene and your mother with all the energy he had. He also told me stories about the other children in Bluefield and the great tornado that devastated his family. I always think of Doug as one of the truest friends I have had. Kerry Hale and husband, Lewis*

Kerry Hale - March 21, 2017 at 08:56 AM

JG

“ *Jim, Delores, and Gail purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith.*



Jim, Delores, and Gail - March 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Jeannie Grubbs lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Jeannie Grubbs - March 20, 2017 at 11:11 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith.*



March 20, 2017 at 10:45 PM

RW

“ Roger and Shirley Winebarger purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith.



Roger and Shirley Winebarger - March 20, 2017 at 10:38 PM

RG

“ Darlene Smith was the most intelligent person I have ever had the pleasure of calling my friend. She was a kind and caring nurse who fought passionately for patients rights. She has spent more than one Thanksgiving delivering food to patients with no family. I am blessed to have known her for 20 years. She took a chance and hired me at 19 years old. We spent the next 22 years working together. I am proud that she was my Director of Nursing, I am most proud that she was my friend.

Rebecca Garrison - March 20, 2017 at 09:58 PM



She loved you very much Becky. You were more than a friend. You were like a sister to her. I'm so grateful for all the places you went together. All of the beauty in the world she WAS able to see. Her big brown eyes saw more than more ever get to.

Katie Elizabeth - March 21, 2017 at 09:01 AM



You were more than a friend Becky, you were family to her. She was asking about you not long ago. She loved you and always said that you have a heart of gold.

Angie Dixon - March 21, 2017 at 03:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith.



March 20, 2017 at 08:36 PM

FH

“ *Faye Howard lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



faye howard - March 20, 2017 at 08:34 PM

AE

“ *Ashley Emery lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Ashley Emery - March 20, 2017 at 08:18 PM

LC

“ *Lynn Cross lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Lynn Cross - March 20, 2017 at 08:03 PM

TA

“ *Trula Arrants lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith*



Trula Arrants - March 20, 2017 at 08:02 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Aliese Puckett-Canipe Bonn - March 20, 2017 at 07:59 PM

AC

“ April Charles lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith



April Charles - March 20, 2017 at 07:38 PM

GC

“ Ginger Conrad lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith



Ginger Conrad - March 20, 2017 at 07:33 PM

DO

“ Debra Smith Osborne lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith



Debra Smith Osborne - March 20, 2017 at 07:00 PM



“ Katie Elizabeth lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith



Katie Elizabeth - March 20, 2017 at 06:52 PM



“ 9 files added to the album more pics of our precious momma



Angie Dixon - March 20, 2017 at 06:49 PM



“ 38 files added to the album LifeTributes



Angie Dixon - March 20, 2017 at 06:46 PM

AC

“ April Charles lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith



April Charles - March 20, 2017 at 06:40 PM



“ Angie Dixon lit a candle in memory of Darlene Elizabeth Basford Smith



Angie Dixon - March 20, 2017 at 06:21 PM



“ 36 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Blevins Funeral & Cremation Services - March 20, 2017 at 01:27 PM