

August 26, 2007

Gladys Anselem Smith

Gladys Anselem Smith, 91, passed away on July 28 in Woodville.

When Gladys trusted Christ as her Savior, the scripture Psalm 51:10 was her desire. She went to be with that Savior on July 28, 2007. Gladys was a member of First Baptist Church, Woodville. She was born February 11, 1916 in Lawtell, Louisiana to George and Anna Anselem. After high school she moved to Beaumont to further her education where she met the love of her life, James R. Smith and they were married June 11, 1941. After Jimmy finished his army service, they moved to San Antonio, Texas where they lived for several years until Jimmy was transferred to Houston, Texas. They lived in Houston where Jimmy established Smith Business Machines and they both worked to make it successful. When it was time to retire, they built their dream place at Warren, Texas, where they were both active in their local church as well as in the affairs of the community. Although Gladys and Jimmy were not blessed with children of their own, they were instrumental in helping their nieces and nephews succeed in their chosen fields of endeavor. Upon Jimmy's death in 1978, Gladys continued to live in Warren until 1994 when she moved to Woodville in order to be near her nephew, Rodney Derouen and his wife, Alice and their family.

In Woodville, Gladys was active in the local church where she continued to teach an adult bible study class as well as being active in mission organizations. She went on many mission trips in the United States as well as South and Central America. Gladys spent numerous hours visiting those who were confined at home as well as doing volunteer work in the community.

Gladys was preceded in death by her husband, James R. Smith, her parents George and Anna Anselem, her brothers, Joseph Ray Anselem and L. G. Anselem. Her sisters, Eunice A. Derouen, Barbara A. Foster, Lucille A. Derouen. She is survived by her brother Archie Anselem and his wife, Gladys; Bell City, Louisiana, Sisters, Edna M. Anselem, Woodville, Texas, and Joyce Miller, Lake Charles, Louisiana. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held from 5-8 on Monday, July 30, 2007. Services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2007 at Stringer and Griffin Funeral Home Chapel in Woodville, with Rev. Kenneth Cauthen, officiating. Burial followed immediately in Fellowship Cemetery, Warren, Texas. Serving as pallbearers were her nephews, Rodney Derouen, Jr., Michael Derouen, Scott Derouen, Randall Miller, Guy Miller and Boyd Miller.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks for the loving care of the Lakes Area Hospice as well as the Woodville Health and Rehabilitation Center where Gladys resided for the past several months.

Services were under the direction of Stringer & Griffin Funeral Home of Woodville.

Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."