



Melba Smith

JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Melba Smith

JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014

Melba Smith, 69 of Fayetteville, AR died in New York City on March 20, 2014. She was born January 15, 1945 in Fayetteville, AR to Edgar Smith and Minerva (Hoover) Morgan.

She was a 1963 graduate of Fayetteville High School, attended AM&N College in Pine Bluff, AR where she received a degree in Business Administration and was a cheerleader.

Melba also served as Seminar Designer for the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church and Resource Coordinator for Southern Africa for United Methodist Women at the United Nations. Her work for human rights encompassed deep understanding of the political spectrum at home and across the world, placing her in the sphere of world leaders and great thinkers from President Nelson Mandela and President Bill Clinton to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Following retirement, Melba continued to advocate for human rights, especially for women and children. She was a founding member of the United Nations African Mothers Association, which raises support for women and children in Africa, the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Northwest Arkansas African American Heritage Association, which documents and preserves African American history as American history for current and future generations.

She is survived by her sister, Patricia Polk, her nieces Melinda Bridges, great nieces, Theresa Bridges and Raven Petty, and a host of cousins, friends, and colleagues.

Funeral services will be held 10:00AM, Thursday, April 3rd at Sequoyah Methodist Church in Fayetteville with Reverend Sara Pair officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Cemetery in Fayetteville.

Donations may be made in Melba's memory to NWA African American Heritage Assn, [a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt org.] c/o Arkansas Archeological Survey, 2475 N Hatch Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72704 or the United Nations African Mothers Association, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017



Obituary

Melba Smith

JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014

To sign the online guest book please visit www.nelsonberna.com

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home & Crematory of Fayetteville



Events


Melba Smith

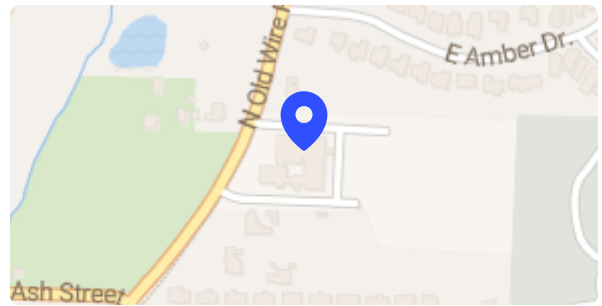
JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014

Funeral Service

 **Thursday**, April 3, 2014

 10:00 AM CT

 **Sequoyah United Methodist Church**
1910 N. Old Wire Road, Fayetteville AR





Tribute Wall

Melba Smith

JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014

BF

Bobby Farrah posted:

~ Bobby Farrah, Fayetteville, Arkansas

April 2 at 7:00 PM

RM

Roberta Lackey-Morgan posted:

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

April 1 at 7:00 PM

EA

Evelyn Anderson posted:

My condolence to the family during your time of grief.

April 1 at 7:00 PM

MB

Marilyn Parker-Brooks posted:

Cousin Micky or as I liked to call her Princess Melba and I met in New York in the early 70's. I was blessed to spend time with her over the years in New York, Los Angeles and at family reunions in Fayetteville and Maryland. She was an extraordinary woman who was passionate about God, family and friends. She shared her gifts with many and lives were enriched as a result. She is already missed. Rest in peace dear cousin.

March 31 at 7:00 PM

GS

George Sabo lii posted:

Melba had a profound effect on all of us here at the Arkansas Archeological Survey. She was a driving force for the preservation of African American heritage in northwest Arkansas and we are all the better for our experiences working with her. We are committed to preserving the legacy of her efforts and continuing the many projects she promoted.

March 31 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Melba Smith

JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014

MH

Marilyn Heifner posted:

Melba was in the FHS Drill team when I got to Fayetteville High School. She had the longest legs I'd ever seen. She kept us laughing on the bus to Joplin and back. How glad I am that we reconnected at our monthly mini-reunions. What a wonderful spirit she had and I'm sure she's laughing with the angels now. I'm proud to have called her my friend.

March 31 at 7:00 PM

MT

Margaret Ann (Perry) Toney posted:

I met Melba when she was searching for a cemetery where some of her ancestors were laid to rest. She was an interesting lady and very gracious.

March 31 at 7:00 PM

MF

Mike Freels posted:

Melba was a wonderful person to know and even though we were just starting to work together in our newly-formed cemetery group, I could tell she had the experience and demeanor to make great contributions to our group. She was are recently elected Vice President of the Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group. She will be greatly missed by all of us!

March 31 at 7:00 PM

WS

Willistine Boyd Smith posted:

Melba was a shining light and a SINCERE example of how we should all live our life. I was fortunate to have known Melba, graduated FHS with her, and most recently at our 50th reunion, learned of her many accomplishments. What a amazing woman. As many of us would like to accomplish in our lifetime is to leave this world a little better than when we arrived. Melba did that. Go rest high on that Mountain, Melba. Your shining light will always be there. Willistine Boyd Smith, Fayetteville, AR

March 30 at 7:00 PM

JW

Jimmy Walker posted:

God bless her... was so glad to get reacquainted with this lovely women at our recent class reunion

March 30 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Melba Smith

JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014

AS

Andrietta Sims posted:

Micky was a friend and neighbor. But most of all, she was a role model on how to be a woman who lives life to the fullest and how to love. She had a beautiful spirit and I am going to miss her dearly. Thank you Melba for sharing some of your life with me.

March 29 at 7:00 PM

BH

Barbara Holt posted:

Rest in Peace Melba. You were quite a lady.

March 28 at 7:00 PM

MG

Martha Garriott posted:

Melba and I became friends over the last few years, after she attended our 40-year class reunion. She shared some fond memories of when my dad (who was the Watkins man) would call on her family. Melba faithfully attended our monthly FHS gatherings while she was in town, and we all cherished her friendship. I am so glad she reached out to us

March 28 at 7:00 PM

PD

Paul And Earline Dixon posted:

The friendship we shared with Melba will not be forgotten. She was the epitome of a best friend. In sickness and health alike, she was there to hold our hands and make us laugh. When Melba was down, we lifted her spirits with visits and flowers, a meal or a movie. She loved life, family, friends and God. Melba will be missed not only by us, but by everyone she touched.

March 28 at 7:00 PM

CB

Clela Cain - Burlison posted:

~ Clela Cain - Burlison, Sallisaw, Oklahoma

March 27 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Melba Smith

JAN 15, 1945 - MAR 20, 2014

RC

Reba Easterling Cunningham posted:

I went to school with Melba. She was a wonderful person to know, always a gracious lady. I am very proud to say she was my friend.

March 27 at 7:00 PM

AB

Andrea Thompson Bevernitz posted:

Micky (Melba) was my high school friend and I remember spending lots of time both in and out of school with her, her mother and her sister. Many years have passed since then but I've not forgotten the sweet friendship we shared. Rest in peace, Melba.

March 27 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Melba by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

