



## Faye Ritchie Smith

February 1, 2021

Faye Ritchie Smith, 97, died Feb. 1, 2021 in Charlotte of natural causes. She was the last living sibling in a family of six sisters and two brothers.

Born on a farm in Cabarrus County, she moved to Charlotte at age nine with her widowed mother Lillie Ritchie and siblings after her father Ira Ritchie died unexpectedly at age 37.

Her mother found work in a textile mill and her older sisters took care of the younger children until they finished school and left home.

Faye attended Oakhurst School and later worked as an inspector at Hudson Hosiery Co. She married Charlotte native Robert Smith in 1942, the year he was inducted into the army.

Their oldest child Doug was born in 1944. Siblings Danny, Donald, Donna and Darlene arrived later to share the 10-room family home on West Boulevard next door to Wilmore Elementary School.

Faye enjoyed hanging out with friends at Independence Park, where she met Robert, and watching movies -- "Gone With the Wind" was her favorite -- in a center city alive with street photographers, newspaper hawkers, food vendors, and pigeons jostling under foot for food.

Her alluring baby-blue eyes and movie-star demeanor made her a hit in uptown Charlotte with wolf-whistling males. That was quite amusing to Doug and Danny who made the mistake of describing the encounters to their father. He was not amused.

Faye cared deeply about not only her family but friends she made easily on

shopping trips, seniors bus tours, church events and even telephone calls. The family was watching TV in the living room one night when the phone rang and she ran into the hall to answer it. Thirty minute later she returned. "Who was that?" Robert asked? "Just a wrong number," she replied.

Faye was notorious for spoiling grandkids. Drop them off at Granny's house and you will pick them up later with sticky hands and faces, belly aches and enough junk food to last for weeks.

Baking was a Faye specialty. She showered friends and family with fruit cakes until Robert advised her that the cost of ingredients was squeezing the family budget. She responded by baking pound cakes instead.

Faye was a stay-at-home mom nurturing five children and a steadily rising number of grandchildren during most of her married life, but she also made time for others.

She volunteered as a grade mother at Wilmore Elementary School, answered the recruiting call to become a Cub Scout den mother, and volunteered with the Loaves & Fishes pantry at her beloved Calvary United Methodist Church. She was soft-hearted and mild-mannered, but at home she could be tough on a rowdy child. Misbehave and you were sent to the thick hedges in the backyard with orders to cut a switch for a discipline lesson. Cut a puny switch and you got a return trip to choose a bigger switch and a more vigorous bare-legs lashing.

In her later years Faye suffered a broken leg, a fractured ankle and numerous falls and scrapes due to bone weakness related to osteoporosis. She dreaded parting with friends at her Dilworth apartment building, but a nursing home was the only way to ensure her safety.

Family members will forever miss the Sunday dinners at the Wilmore house, the picnics in the backyard, and the guided trips on the city bus to the best shopping bargains and snack foods in uptown Charlotte.

Faye was preceded in death by her husband Robert in 1983 after 41 years of marriage and her son Donald in 2020, Survivors include Doug Smith (Linda), Danny Smith (Gloria), Donna Mauney (Paul), Darlene Whitaker (David),

daughter-in-law Lesa Smith, 22 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. The Smith family will be forever grateful to Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region for the compassionate care they provide during Faye's declining health.

Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home, 4715 Margaret Wallace Rd., Matthews, N.C. 28105, is carrying out Faye's final wishes. No public service is planned due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Donations in remembrance of Faye may be made to Calvary United Methodist Church, 512 West Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C. 28203, [calvaryumcnc.org](http://calvaryumcnc.org)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Faye Ritchie Smith*

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ *Faye Ritchie Smith*

October 24, 2022 at 08:52 PM



“ *Doug & linda & family so sorry to hear about your mom  
I met her thru Helen & loved the entire family  
Remember she was very funny & full of herself  
Our prayers & thoughts are with you*

**geri sherrill** - February 26, 2021 at 07:36 AM



“ *May god be with the family. We pray for yu and pour blessing on yu  
forever. Amen.  
MELONIE KEITH (TRAVELERS REST SC)*

**Melonie Keith** - February 10, 2021 at 08:26 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Robert Douglas Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 02:35 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Robert Douglas Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 02:27 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Doug Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 02:19 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Doug Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 02:08 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Doug Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 02:04 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Doug Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 01:57 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Doug Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 01:40 PM

SH

*I have a couple of these angels she made hanging around my house. I think of her when I look at them.  
Sheila*

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**Sheila** - February 09, 2021 at 05:19 PM

DM

“ Mom was one of a kind! She had such a big heart! Once we went to a cooking class together. She quickly got to know everyone in the class and the names of all their children, their hobbies, etc The teacher pulled me aside and said “Your mom is so sweet. She’s like the mother of everyone on earth” I thought that described her well. I deeply admired the way Mom tried to make the best of every situation. Being widowed and having to leave her home had to be so hard. But she quickly looked for ways to connect and serve in her new housing community. She found out there was a prayer meeting and committed to being there every Thursday night. She looked forward to sharing with us what she learned and new people she had met there. She was always looking for someone who needed a friend!

Mom loved music esp Christmas music. She filled the house with Christmas music as early in the season as she could. I also remember her turning on Billy Graham every time he was on tv. She told me once she turned it on because she esp. wanted to hear George Beverly Shea sing “How Great Thou Art” , her favorite hymn. She informed me that George Beverly Shea was the only one that could sing it right!

I sure will miss her presence in my life, her sweet smile, her mischievous chuckle and the twinkle in her eyes. I’m also grateful for the love she lavished on me, my children, my grandchildren and pretty much everyone she met! Thankful that Mom has now joined the heavenly choir and is enjoying her reward in Heaven! Love always, Donna

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**Donna Mauney** - February 09, 2021 at 09:53 AM

SB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Shirley Beale** - February 07, 2021 at 03:48 PM

DS

*Four Ritchie sisters (from left) Faye, Helen, Virginia, Frances with Grandma Ritchie and Pat Ritchie. We dearly miss them all.*

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**Doug Smith** - February 09, 2021 at 12:55 PM

SJ

*My mother, Pat, was as close to her "in-law" sisters as she was her biological ones, and I'm sure they felt the same about her!*

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**Susie Ritchie Johnson** - February 12, 2021 at 12:16 PM

KN

“ *I never knew Mrs. Smith. My mother also worked at Hudson Hosiery as a young woman, I wonder if they knew each other. Your tribute in the Observer was lovely and her photo is one of a very striking woman. Wolf whistles indeed! Our condolences to all of your family.*  
- Meg and Kris Newton, Charlotte.

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**Kris Newton** - February 06, 2021 at 11:36 AM

LS

“ Grandma was one of my best friends. We had fun shopping at thrift stores for baby clothes and stuff to do crafts with. She was a huge help in taking care of our kids. We went to stores even when she was on a walker. Nothing stopped Granny from getting out and having fun. She was so caring and loving. Lots of Sundays we went to her house for lunch. I will miss her sweet smile and soft heart. She set a good example on how to be a great mother. I will love you and remember you forever Grandma.

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**Linda Smith** - February 06, 2021 at 10:52 AM

DS

“ I remember how excited my mother was when my brothers and sisters gave her a small trophy that was inscribed "World's Best Mother." That's a title we thought she deserved and one that she relished. She was diligent in ensuring that all of our physical and emotional needs were met. When I went off to UNC she stayed in touch by writing me a weekly news letter on the happening back home. She always enclosed a few dollars even though I told her I didn't need it. I am sure she was just as faithful to my brothers and sisters as well as the Ritchie family, fellow Calvary United Methodist Church members and a wide circle of friends and neighbors. We dearly miss her. -- Doug Smith

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**Doug Smith** - February 06, 2021 at 10:25 AM

CG

“ I sure will miss Granny. I have fond memories of her 12th floor apartment. I loved to have sleepovers there and always looked forward to riding the bus uptown to Woolworth's. I will cherish all the angles Granny made for me and everyone else she met. It brought her so much joy to give away those angles. Maybe I'll take a up new past time... making angles. I love you Granny.

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**Carrie Ganzhorn** - February 04, 2021 at 07:11 PM



*Please share a picture of the angles she made*

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**Ang** - February 06, 2021 at 01:52 PM