



Rita I. Smith

December 5, 1928 - January 6, 2022

Rita Irene Smith

12/05/1928 - 1/06/2022

Rita Irene Smith, formerly of Phoenixville, PA, widow of Dr. Joseph Smith, passed away on January 6, 2022 at the Meadows of Shannondell, Audubon PA, at the age of 93 years, one month and one day. Dr. Smith passed in November, 1986. Rita was a daughter of the late Arthur Clayton Ney and Gertrude (Gertie) Hepler Ney of Valley View, PA; she was the fifth of eleven children.

Rita was a graduate of the former Hegins Township High School, Hegins, PA. Following graduation, Rita moved to Phoenixville, PA and shortly thereafter met her first husband, Gabriel DiGuseppe. She began her career in the business world, working as an executive secretary for most of her life, retiring at the age of 82. Throughout her career, she lived in the Unionville and Phoenixville, PA area, primarily.

Rita began her career at the Lochman Corporation in Phoenixville, then moved on to the West Company Pharmaceuticals in Phoenixville. Following her employment at the West Company Pharmaceuticals, she began a new journey as executive secretary for Gino Marchetti and Alan Ameche, NFL

Stars, who founded sports restaurants in the King of Prussia, PA area. She remained with this company until its closure, then proceeded on to Pharmaceutical companies in the Great Valley Complex, Malvern, PA, from which she retired as an executive secretary in 2010.

Rita's heart was filled with a gift of giving - even to those in need, whom she did not know. Her spirit of generosity was exemplified when she met a couple about to be married while she and Dr. Joe vacationed in Jamaica a number of years ago. Rita learned that the bride-to-be did not have enough money to buy a wedding dress. As a result, when Rita returned to her home in Unionville, PA, she bought a wedding dress and mailed the dress to the bride-to-be in Jamaica! Her generosity consistently expanded to the love of her family and extended family. She gained much satisfaction by lavishing profusely upon her siblings, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and beyond, presenting to them her "prize finds" during her numerous shopping excursions. Rita truly believed in helping and giving to others. Rita also enjoyed numerous shopping trips and vacations with her siblings throughout the years, consistently creating memorable moments. Rita's spirit and spunk captured the hearts and minds of those fortunate to have known her.

In addition to her parents and husband, Rita was predeceased by an infant brother, a step son, and five brothers: Vere Fayne; Carl Dean; Warren Seth; Ray Andrew and Larry Dale. Rita is survived by three sisters and one brother: Iris Olive (Peggy) DiGuiseppe; Anna Mae Roof; Jeanette Elizabeth Klinger and her husband Terry; Jay Jacob Ney and his wife, Marie. She is also survived by three step children: Joseph, Jr.; Tina and Kitsi, plus many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews, all whom she loved dearly.

A memorial for Rita will be held later in the year.

Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Main Street at Fifth Avenue, Phoenixville, PA. Condolences may be offered by visiting www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

PB

“ I used to work with Rita at Sanofi. She was always a ray of sunshine and could be counted on to tell it like it was. She will be truly missed.

Pamela A Butler - January 12, 2022 at 08:59 PM

AC

“ I had the pleasure of working with Rita at Sanofi for many years. One of my fondest memories of her is when out of the blue she came into my office and gave me a chocolate milkshake she picked up for me during her lunch break. What a nice thing to do! Besides being a fine business support person she always did a lot of nice things for our department: bringing in snacks and treats for all to enjoy and running our office pools to try to win big lottery jackpots. I always admired her resilience and positive attitude she had in handling the many curve balls life presented her. My condolences go out to all her family. She will be missed.(A donation has been made to a local food bank in her memory)

a fellow coworker - January 11, 2022 at 12:13 PM

CG

“ Rita (aka Aunt Rit) was one of the most generous people I knew. My early years are filled with great memories of helping her decorate for Christmas, learning and playing racquet ball (I never did beat her), my first Gino Giant, my first real road bike which I still have and many other interactions. Aunt Rit and my mother or Aunt Rit with Uncle John were special times with lots of laughs and humorous stories. In later years we didn't see each other as much but when we did it was as if no time had transpired. She always had a great smile and a big hug for me as we got down to catching up on life. I will always miss her and hope she is praying for the family up there while tipping drinks with Eva, Jeannie, Rita and all the others she hung with.

Chris Gilbert - January 11, 2022 at 10:57 AM

SP

“ Syl and I share our finest condolences on the passing of this dear woman. As a young working professional, I had the great privilege of working with Rita at The West Company, where Rita carried her self with the dignity and character so sorely missing in today's business world.



May her memory be a blessing.

Sal and Sylvia Katz of Phoenixville, PA - January 10, 2022 at 06:42 PM

SD

“ What an amazingly kind woman, I had the pleasure of staying at her house and spending a weekend with her. She immediately treated me like family and staying with her was like being on vacation! Such a warm, kind intelligent woman will be greatly missed. Susie Diguseppe

Susan DiGiuseppe - January 10, 2022 at 03:33 PM



“ Mrs. Fields Large Combo Basket was purchased for the family of Rita I. Smith.



January 09, 2022 at 05:50 PM