



Wilma Leone Smith

March 11, 2023

Wilma Leone Smith, 98, passed away peacefully on March 11, 2023, the same date her loving husband of 71 years passed away one year ago.

Wilma was born November 23, 1924 on the family farm in Winterset, Iowa to the late Roy and Hazel Cleveland. She was also predeceased by her two brothers, Maurice and Forrest. She would often talk of her idyllic childhood growing up on the farm. She loved her horses and all the animals, as well as ice skating on the ponds near her home.

She graduated high school at age 16 and from The American Institute of Business in Des Moines, Iowa. Wilma was employed at the Des Moines National Bank until Robert's transfer to Atlanta, Georgia where she worked for the IRS. They also lived in Cincinnati, Ohio and settled in Syracuse in 1956.

Wilma was dedicated to being a good wife and mother, creating a wonderful home for her family, filled with love, music and laughter. She and Robert had numerous friends, who were very special to them. Wilma was active in civic organizations and her church, Andrews Memorial UMC, now Faith Journey UMC. Also, she volunteered at local skilled nursing facilities. She was an avid golfer, enjoyed playing Bridge, was a big sports fan and attended hundreds of Syracuse University basketball and football games. She thoroughly enjoyed her two grandchildren, who were the sunshine in her life.

Surviving are her daughter, Cindi Besio-Clement (Bill); grandchildren, Jeff Besio (Caitlin) and Chelsea Foley (Michael); great grandchildren, Colin Foley, Claire Foley, Emily Besio, and Henry Besio.

The family would like to thank Wilma's extraordinary caregivers, who provided so much more than physical care over the past years. Linda, Wilma's best friend, was such a blessing during Wilma's twilight years, along with Ness and Mardie. Also, we would like to thank Hospice of CNY for their support.

The family will greet friends on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 from 3 pm to 4 pm followed by a service at 4 pm at Faith Journey United Methodist Church, 8396 Morgan Road, Clay.

In honor of Wilma's love for animals, she requested donations be made to the animal shelter or rescue group of your choice or the Alzheimer's Association (<https://www.alz.org/donate>).

Previous Events

Calling Hour

MAR **22**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Faith Journey United Methodist Church
8396 Morgan Road
Clay, NY 13041

Service following

Funeral Service

MAR **22**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Faith Journey United Methodist Church
8396 Morgan Road
Clay, NY 13041

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilma Leone Smith*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM