



Katherine "Kate" Ella Smith

October 6, 1947 - May 29, 2018

Katherine Ella Patten Smith was born on October 6, 1947 to Charles Robert Patten and Altha Pearl Phelps Patten in Somerville, Somerset, New Jersey. She died suddenly May 29, 2018 in Tallahassee Florida.

Kate's maternal grandparents were part of her childhood. While her grandfather taught her to track and hunt in the woods, her grandmother made certain that Kate learned needlework and proper etiquette. While a college freshman, Kate received an invitation from the Dean of Women to a formal Tea. Kate knew exactly what to wear and how to conduct herself and became one of the very few students who was actually welcomed a Teas. Kate's mother was attending college while Kate was in elementary school. Her mother received permission from her professors to allow Kate to attend classes with her. The approval came with a demand that Kate do the assignments and take the tests in the classes. This meant that Kate acquired college credit prior to going to high school. This served her well, since Kate went on to graduate from the all women's Douglas Residential College, formally the New Jersey College for Women and a division of Rutgers College.

Kate and Columbus Harland Smith (Bud) met and fell in love. They were planning a June wedding in 1972. However, Bud decided that was just too long to wait. They were married on Valentine's Day 1972 at her grandparents home. Bud and Kate traveled the country together long haul trucking for a number of years. Bud was a Marine veteran who developed cancer from

Agent Orange exposure during multiple tours in Vietnam. Long haul trucking eventually became impossible and they moved to Minnesota where Kate worked for ATT. Although, Kate and Bud did not have any children, but they did raise several nieces.

Eventually, Kate and Bud moved to Florida and in 1988 they bought a house in Wakulla County. Kate started a secretarial service in their home. They both joined a motorcycle club. They rode a pair of Harley Triks in matching leathers - his was red and hers was pink. Their appearance was in great demand at local parades, where Kate loved popping wheelies for the crowd. At Christmas, they were Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and participated in the motorcycle club's Christmas Toy Run and the Marine's Toys for Tots drive. Santa and Mrs. Claus were also in demand at local Christmas parties. Kate and Bud joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They were sealed for eternity in the Atlanta Temple on April 22, 1989. In 2005, Bud lost his battle with cancer.

Kate started working for the Public Service Commission as an investigator. Soon after, she began to have health problems and moved to Tallahassee in 2007, where she could use public transportation to commute to work. Kate had always loved dancing, but had never had the time to pursue this passion. Kate began taking ballroom dance lessons. In 2010, she competed in the Las Vegas Cross Country Dancesport Championship, where she danced 100 sets and won her division.

When she returned to Tallahassee, Kate was told that the infection in her left foot had entered the bone and her leg would have to be amputated below the knee. The surgery went well, but her rehabilitation turned into a protracted battle with infections, surgeries and allergies to antibiotics, which she finally conquered. After regaining enough strength and being fitted with a prosthesis, she returned to ballroom dancing which became part of her therapy. Her refusal to give up dancing made her an inspiration to a local amputee support group. Her health and strength continued to improve after joining a local gym, where excellent trainers contributed appreciably to her physical well being

these last few years.

Her memorial service will be held, June 8, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Stake Center, 5347 Bucklake Road, Tallahassee, FL. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Marine's Toys for Tots Foundation. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Smith family with their arrangements.

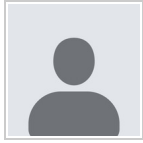
Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Buck Lake Road)
5455 Buck Lake Road
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Tribute Wall



“ *It was a great pleasure to be involved with Kate as we worked together at the Public Service Commission and were able to share a few dinners together after Bud's death. Her life story was one of loving and caring for those around her -- people and pets -- not focused on the challenges she faced.*

Jeanette Sickel - June 20, 2018 at 12:17 PM



“ *I loved hearing Kate's stories. She was a straightforward and delightful conversationalist. Deepest condolences to her family.*
Rosemary N. Palmer

Rosemary N Palmer - June 06, 2018 at 08:05 AM