



Geraldean Smith Person

July 11, 1940 - July 30, 2020

Geraldean Smith Person passed away on July 30, 2020, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, TN. Born on July 11, 1940, in Gibson, TN, she spent her early years in Humboldt, TN, before moving to Memphis where she lived for the remainder of her life. Geraldean is survived by her devoted husband of 47 years, former Juvenile Court Judge Curtis S. Person, and a total of five children and step-children, Kathleen Person Longoria, Curtis S. Person III (Barbara), Charles Couch Jr. (Linda) of Alpharetta, GA, Dr. Patrick R. Person (Amy) and Christopher S. Person. She leaves behind two surviving siblings, Jane Smith Reese of Jacksonville, FL, and Michael Smith of Overland Park, Kansas, and her sister-in-law Dr. Patti Person Ray (Barry). Geraldean was preceded in death by her parents, Elizabeth and Happel Smith, her sister, Susan Smith Cronin, and her daughter, Jerry Leigh Meister.

She was blessed with 10 grandchildren, Dr. Ritchie Longoria (Chris), Jesse Longoria (Kailyn), Katie Longoria, Carson Couch, Cameron Couch, Curtis S. Person IV, Cody Person, Kendall Person, Austin Person (Amy), and Caleb Person (Abbey), along with four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Geraldean lived a life of beauty, both externally and internally. During her days as a student at Humboldt High School, she was selected as the Homecoming Queen and the Captain of the cheerleading squad. She was also named as the Queen of the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival held in Humboldt, TN. For three decades, she was the most sought-after model in Memphis. She graced the covers of several magazines and was featured in countless fashion shows centered on raising money for charitable causes. Geraldean's devotion to the Memphis community went far beyond her modeling career. She served as Chair of the Heart Gala and the Miss Liberty Bowl Pageant. However, her devotion to and love for animals of all kinds exemplified her internal beauty as she spent her life working on the behalf of animal protection. As a Tennessee State Senator (1968-2006) her husband, Curtis, was so inspired by Geraldean's passion for animals that he served as the Senate sponsor of legislation to regulate puppy mills and increase the penalties for cruelty to animals. Geraldean and Curtis were dedicated supporters of the

Memphis Humane Society.

Due to the current pandemic, there will be a small, private family gathering to celebrate Geraldean's life.

In light of Geraldean's passion for "all creatures great and small," the family requests that in lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of Geraldean Smith Person to the Memphis Humane Society.

Cemetery

Memorial Park Cemetery

5668 Poplar Avenue

Memphis, TN, 38119

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery - August 03, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ My sincerest condolences to Judge Curtis Person and family. May God give the peace and strength you need.

Joycelyn Sutton - August 18, 2020 at 09:12 PM



“ I served for nearly a quarter of a century with Senator/Judge Person. All of us privileged to work with him in the General Assembly knew that he long loved and absolutely adored his beautiful bride.

How many times I've heard him talk about Geraldine with such respect and affection. To hear him talk of her was to know there was no doubt but that she was an extraordinary and extremely special person.

While I did not know her well directly, I saw her uplifting and edifying ways in all that Senator Person did.

God bless her and Mr. Chairman.

Roy Herron - August 03, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Charles E Couch - August 03, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ Our deepest sympathizes and condolences to the entire family upon hearing this news. Geraldean was a wonderful person who was warm and welcoming to all. I have fond memories of her in my youth and beyond. She will be missed by all.

The Sharps, Keith, Tess and Brian

Keith Sharp - August 03, 2020 at 11:56 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Geraldine is Mother of Charles Couch who is my great nephew. She was a very lovely person. Joe Anne Couch Humboldt, TN

Joe Anne Couch - August 01, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ I grew up in Humboldt. Susan Geraldeans sister was my best friend. I saw the wonderful smith family everyday. They were close and welcomed all friends there. I remember the laughter and the beautiful gowns for beauty reviews and the fun spirits for Our school and town. Gerald wan was beautiful and kind both inside and out Carol. Barker Robinson

carol robinson - August 01, 2020 at 01:50 PM



“ I also graduated with Susan

So sorry to learn of Geraldean's passing. Her youngest sister Susan and I were good friends. Spent lot of time also with the Smith family. Jane Geraldean Michael Susan and parents all really good sweet folks. Gearldean a beautiful woman married a friend of ours Charlie Couch. All three girls were an asset to our schools, beauty reviews cheerleaders Strawberry Festival. We are all blessed to have known them as our friends. We lost Susan way too soon. Prayers and love for all Geraldeans family

Bobby Joe and Sandra-Youmans Vasquez - August 03, 2020 at 01:17 PM