



## Mrs. Helen Y. Smith

October 22, 1924 - May 25, 2025

### HELEN Y. SMITH OBITUARY

Helen Jeanette Yancey Smith received her heavenly wings on May 25th, 2025. Helen was born on October 22nd, 1924, to the late Beatrice Selestine (Joaquin) and Arthur Purcell Yancey in Patchogue, Long Island, New York. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Clarence Smith, and by their son, Westley Clarence.

Helen was educated in the public school system in Patchogue and was a member of Grace A.M.E. Zion Methodist Church until her family relocated to Washington, D.C. in 1936. She graduated from Cadoza High School in 1943 and furthered her education at Howard University.

While Helen's brother Freddie was serving in the U.S. Army, Clarence saw Helen's picture and became enamored. "Smitty," as he was known, befriended Freddie in hopes of meeting her. Eventually, Freddie introduced the two and they were united in marriage in December 1945. From this union, three children were born: Westley Clarence, Adrienne Cheryl (known as Audrey), and Sherry Diane.

In 1953, Clarence and Helen became associated with Lane Memorial C.M.E. Church and joined in 1965. Helen served faithfully in various ministries: the Sunday School Ministry as a Sunday School Teacher; Drama Ministry; secretary for church monthly meetings; Community Golden Challengers,

where she rendered service in the community; and performed other secretarial duties as needed. Helen was also a Den Mother at Mt. Airy Baptist Church and was an active member in the Woodridge Elementary School PTA. Helen was also involved in other social activities such as the La Pokeens social club.

In 1994, Helen joined Landover Memorial Baptist Church, currently known as Woodstream Church. Helen joined small groups and became active again in the Children's Ministry as a Sunday School Teacher. She was also a charter member of the Titus II Ministry.

Helen loved life! Lennie, as she was affectionately called by family members, enjoyed family, friends, shopping, and going to fashion shows. One of her favorite fashion shows she attended often was the Ebony Fashion Fair whenever it came to D.C. During the holidays, the La Pokeens had Christmas parties/New Year's parties at the family home for many years. She also loved family celebrations and opened her home for other members to stay at the house whenever there was a need.

Helen, loved to travel! Every year, she and Smitty took a vacation in August. Sometimes with the kids and sometimes they traveled alone. Every Labor Day Weekend the family traveled to New York to see The Rockettes, visit an aunt in Harlem, then on to Long Island to visit more family and friends.

The memory of Helen Y. Smith will remain in the hearts of her survivors: her daughters, Adrienne Johnson and Sherry Perkins; one sister, Carolyn Chapman; one son-in-law Terry Perkins: five grandchildren: Brandi Teel (Jamaal), Michael Johnson, Andre Perkins, David Perkins, Christopher Perkins (Cassie); four great grandchildren: Claire Teel, Sarah Teel, Aaron Teel, and Karter Perkins; two Goddaughters: Angela Rambeau and Carmelita Cutler; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends are left to cherish the memory of her life.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Lincoln Cemetery

3401 Bladensburg Road  
Brentwood, MD 20722

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Woodstream Church  
9800 Lottsford Rd  
Bowie, MD 20721  
(301) 955-1142

## Service

JUN 17. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Woodstream Church  
9800 Lottsford Rd  
Bowie, MD 20721  
(301) 955-1142

# Tribute Wall

EF

“ We are saddened to learn about the loss of your loved one. Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Sharing your sadness.

Evans family - August 18, 2025 at 05:58 PM

FM

“ From Paula and Mike and Mom purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Helen Y. Smith.



From Paula and Mike and Mom - June 03, 2025 at 07:05 PM



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - May 28, 2025 at 03:54 PM