



Millie April Smith

June 10, 1942 - June 30, 2020

Smith, Millie "April"
Manchester, Michigan

Millie April Smith, 78, passed away June 30, 2020 at the St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital. She was born on June 10, 1942, in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Russell and Mildred (Shupe) Smith. She was known by her middle name, April.

April graduated from Manchester High School in 1960; from Jackson Junior College in 1962; and from Eastern Michigan University with a BA in 1965, and with a Masters degree in Theatre Arts in 1971. She taught 9th and 10th grade English at Airport Community Schools in Carleton, MI from 1965 to 1967; Washtenaw County (MI) Head Start Project in 1969; and 7th grade English & Speech at Standish-Sterling (MI) Community Schools in 1969 to 1970.

The majority of April's work career was at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ann Arbor, MI, in Supply Service. She worked as a Contracting Specialist for many years, starting in 1970, then transferred to the Warehouse until she retired on March 31, 2000.

After retirement from the U.S. Federal Government, April worked part time at the Manchester Township Library until her death. She was a dedicated and popular employee, and helped countless library patrons over the years.

April was an active volunteer for other community activities. For years she worked at the Manchester Community Fair, always selling tickets at the same entry booth. She got involved in the bicycling community, working the Registration table every July at the AABTS One Helluva Ride event. She also worked many summers on the cross-state Pedal Across Lower Michigan (PALM) tour, where she was known as the Watermelon Lady, expertly cutting fruit for many appreciative bicyclists. For a few years she rode her recumbent bike on PALM tours also.

She loved baseball and was a devoted fan to the Detroit Tigers, being a season ticket holder at the old stadium for many years with her parents and later with her sister Vickie. April loved to attend plays and musicals every chance she could, in Detroit and Ann Arbor, at the Chelsea Purple Rose Theatre, nearby communities, and Manchester High School productions.

April was a lifetime reader. She was never without a book, sometimes more than one at a time. And of course, anyone who knew her was familiar with her love of animals, always sharing her life and love with many dogs and cats, from family pets, then into adulthood starting with John the gray cat (named after John Lennon) and Bobbie, her first little terrier. She is survived by her Dachshund, Greta, and her cats, Midget and Murphy.

April's family was a huge part of her life, and some of her favorite memories were from visiting her brother's family in Vermont and from travelling overseas with family. She will be missed by her sister Vickie (Frank Lamitola) Smith; nieces Katie Smith and Megan Smith; sister-in-law Barbara Smith; her best friend Kathy Dimond and many close neighbors and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, and brother Russell "Skip" Smith II.

April's family and friends will gather to celebrate her life at a later date to be determined. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Manchester District Library (P.O. Box 540, Manchester, MI 48158), or Sasha Farm Animal Sanctuary (P.O. Box 222, Manchester, MI 48158). Please leave a message of comfort for April's family at or sign her guestbook at www.einederfuneralhomes.com

Comments



“ I moved to Manchester in 2008, and immediately headed for the library. April and her smile were part of the welcome I received, and even though I'm now at the Chelsea Retirement Community, I remember her and Manchester District Library with great fondness. Her love for her "critters" (in her Geek picture) and her joy in books were a gift to everyone who met her.

Julia Strimer

Julia Strimer - August 01 at 03:39 PM



“ We are neighbors of April's for 22 years. She would always keep an eye on the neighborhood. Stopping by from time to time or just call to ask if one of our dogs had gone missing. We had wals through the properties sharing memories of her childhood days and teaching our kids of the many different types of plants and animals we'd see. The best was when she came walking out of the woods asking for a ride home. She had taken her van down the trail her dad used to mow to take down a tree stand and got her van stuck in the mud. Later, walking out again, because she had gotten her riding mower stuck.
We will surely miss her.

The O'Brien's - July 23 at 11:59 AM



“ I remember the watermelon lady on the PALM rides. She was a wonderful lady with a beautiful smile.
She will be missed. Sending prayers.
PJ Smith

PJ Smith - July 22 at 08:50 PM



“ I worked with April for several years at the Library. She was so very wise, kind and patient. She was one of the people I missed most when I moved from Manchester. My sincere condolences to her family and close friends.
Diane Schmidt

Diane Schmidt - July 22 at 04:39 PM



“ Dear Vickie, Barb, Megan, Katie and Frank

I am so so sorry for your loss. I only met April a couple of times but knew how important she was to all of you. I know she will be missed and that her legacy of dog and book loving lives on for all of you.

Much love,

Zona

Zona Scheiner - July 22 at 03:12 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about April. I have known April for many years through her sister Vickie. Our sincere condolences to Vickie and her family.
Steve and Lexanne

Lexanne - July 22 at 01:11 PM



“ Vickie and Frank

So sorry to hear about April. We very much remember her from Palm, she will be missed. A big hug from both of us.

Judy and Mark

Mark and Judy Barkey - July 23 at 06:58 AM



“ Vickie, So sorry to hear of the passing of your sister, Peace to her and to you and Frank.
Chuck Nicewonder

Chuck Nicewonder - July 22 at 12:02 PM



“ I loved working with April at the MDL for many years. She had such a bright spirit, clever mind, and enormous patience. I thought she was truly special. I'll always remember her chuckle and the way she cared for animals.

Annabelle Otto - July 11 at 12:01 PM



“ April was a friendly, knowledgeable receptionist who greeted me when I would come to get books from the library. She always helped me. She would help me choose good books.

I will miss her, and send warm wishes to her family.

Sincerely, Janet Davis

Janet Davis - July 09 at 12:33 PM



“ Sending our deepest condolences to April's family. She was truly a special person, who embraced our family as her own. She will truly be missed!!

Sarah and Steven Hahne - July 06 at 10:52 AM



“ From my first meeting with April I found a delightful lady who demonstrated courage and compassion, love of family and living to the fullest. She tackled any job either at work or her home with vigor, research and a can do attitude. May God's grace comfort her family, friends and co-workers.

Gerrie Lixey - July 05 at 12:11 PM