



## Mrs. Ruby Esther Smith

September 25, 1943 - July 5, 2021

Ruby Esther Smith (Dawson), a long-term Biology teacher at Hirsch High School in Chicago, passed away on July 5, 2021. She was the second of three daughters born in Jackson, Mississippi on September 25, 1943 to Clarence Sidney Smith and Lola Kersh Smith. Both parents were also public school teachers.

As a small child, Ruby attended Old Trails, a well-known nursery school in the city of Jackson, Mississippi, located on Decatur Street where she grew up. When she entered the public school, Mary C. Jones Elementary, at the age of five, she was promoted to second grade. At the age of ten, she entered junior high school at Lanier Junior Senior High School and graduated from high school in spring of 1959 as an honor student. Later in the fall of the same year, she joined the freshman class at Tougaloo College. After graduating from college at age nineteen with a degree in biology, she made her way to Chicago alone; but, after she got there, she was assisted by relatives with whom she lived for a short period of time.

Ruby launched her teaching career in September 1963 and taught in a couple of city high schools before joining the staff at Hirsch. She was beloved by many students, some of whom are now old enough to have become grandparents. Yet, they still remember "Miss Smith",

One word that aptly describes Ruby's personality is "generous". She spent her entire life trying to help others. She truly believed, as she explained many times to her family, that by helping others, she was also a winner, improving her own chances for success.

One of Ruby's great passions was historical research. Through many years of archival research, she became an expert in family history on both sides of her ancestry- the Smiths and the Kershes. If any of her relatives wanted to know how other of their kinfolds were related, Ruby usually had the answer. She could talk for hours about her old folk cousins and tell very amusing stories about them.

In the mid-1970s, Ruby married William Dawson (deceased) From that union two children were bom: William Charles Dawson, Jr. and Sarah Elizabeth Dawson, both graduates of Boston College. She has two grandchildren, Owen and Malcom Dawson and a daughter-in-law, Maureen Dawson. She also leaves behind a sister, Sarah Smith Ducksworth and brother-in-law, William Earl Ducksworth; nieces, Sheila Ducksworth and Nichele Cason Mingo; nephews Robert, Kirk and Barton Cason; grand-nieces Alexis, Mercedes, and Victoria Clare, and Kirsten, Kinsley, Lola, Jemma and Jelena Cason; grand-nephews Malik, Ajani, Jordan and London Cason, Emmanuel and Jeremiah Clare, and Devon and Jason Mingo. Ruby will be missed by many relatives and a dear friend Deloris Fry.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 14. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Dean Memorial Funeral Home

745 Highway 468

Brandon, MS 39042

(601) 825-3884

<https://deanmemorialfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ *Ruby and I grew up together. We attended the same kindergarten together. Ruby was smarter than me, but we would talk for hours and hours about the noisy old ladies in the neighborhood when we were children. I will miss her laughs out loud. She could really laugh. Love you Ruby Bertha Taylor Giles*

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**Bertha Taylor Giles** - July 15, 2021 at 10:36 PM

FR

“ *From Harvard University Human Resources purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Ruby Esther Smith.*



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**From Harvard University Human Resources** - July 13, 2021 at 05:56 PM

JD

“ *Joyce Thomas-Judkins & Family (Bobbie's daughter) purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Mrs. Ruby Esther Smith.*



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**Joyce Thomas-Judkins & Family (Bobbie's daughter)** - July 13, 2021 at 04:50 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruby Esther Smith.*



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July 13, 2021 at 03:55 PM