



Ann Elizabeth (Smith) White

May 19, 1931 - July 24, 2025

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

Ann Elizabeth Smith White, age 94, of Olive Branch, MS, died on Thursday, July 24, 2025. She was born on May 19, 1931, to the late Charles Smith and Christine Stinson Smith in Memphis, TN.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Luther G. White, in 2020. She was also preceded in death by all of her siblings, Lottie Smith Campbell, Carl Smith, Doyle Smith, and Billy Smith.

At age 11, Ann's mother, Christine, died of cancer. Ann's father, who worked for the railroad, was not able to raise the children, so they all became wards of the state. Ann and her sister, Lottie, were put in separate foster homes, while her three brothers were sent to the orphanage in Memphis. At the age of 12, Ann was allowed to find a job to help support her expenses with the foster family. She worked at Kress Five and Dime Department Store, and when the foster family moved out of town without her, she soon found herself living in South Memphis, alone. She found someone to let her rent a closet space in an apartment, and she worked 60 hours a week to save money until she could find a new place to live. She went to the library at night to study math, English, and spelling so she could find a better job. At the age of 15, she applied to Southern Bell and was hired. She retired after 33 years and was proud to say

she started at the lowest paying position and retired at the highest non-management position. She remained active in the Pioneer's Club at AT&T for many years. Through everything, her biggest and proudest achievement was having her four daughters.

Ann was a member of Meadowbrook Baptist Church and her life was devoted to her family and her faith. She was blessed to share her faith and her testimony, as a Christian, to so many people. She loved to fish, garden, and cook! Her homemade biscuits were a staple when the family gathered frequently at their home.

Ann is survived by her daughters, Bonnie Epps Henry (Jerry Henry) of Nesbit, MS, Alice Epps Dean (T. Phillip Dean) of Germantown, TN, Donna Epps Garris of Germantown, TN, and Cathy Epps Green (Brad Green) of Kingston Springs, TN; granddaughters, Christina Henry Workman (Tyler Workman) of Oakland, TN, Ann Marie Dean of Collierville, TN, Alicia Dean Pugliese (John Pugliese) of Memphis, TN; grandson, T. Phillip Dean II (Emily Dean) of Charlotte, NC; and great-grandchildren, Hank and Gus Workman, Jake McCalla, Dean McCalla, Alle McCalla, and Wally and Bea Dean.

Ann had two Bible verses that she held close to her heart:

“. . . and now, little children, abide in Him, that when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

1 John 2:28

“. . .no man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

1 John 4:12

Friends are invited to a visitation with the family on Wednesday, July 30, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., at Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch. A private

family burial will be held at Lebanon Cemetery. Bro. Oscar Geeslin will officiate.

In lieu of traditional flowers, donations may be made in Ann White's name to either the American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org) or to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (www.nationalmssociety.org).

Online condolences may be left on her tribute wall at www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com.

Cemetery Details

Lebanon Cemetery

8691 Bethel Rd.
Olive Branch , MS 38654

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **30**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch
6815 Parkview Boulevard
Olive Branch, MS 38654
(662) 893-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com/>

Tribute Wall

EK

“ I have never met your dear Ann and yet, I feel so arrested by her life story that I am writing you to offer my admiration and sympathy. What a loss, but what a life! I read the whole obituary through twice just to take it all in. Her magnificent courage in daring and trusting to keep her heart open through all the terror and pain of her youth! Her steadfast determination to create her own life since no one was showing her how to do that. But she did it. She leaves a beautiful and powerful legacy in you. Did she ever share her biscuit recipe? My heart is with yours. May you be consoled. Thank you also for those two Bible verses. If those are the ones she held close to her heart, I have much to learn from them.

Ellen Cooper Klyce - July 31, 2025 at 08:31 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ann Elizabeth (Smith) White.



July 29, 2025 at 06:04 PM

AH

“ We admired Ann for her strength of character and her faith. Her knowledge of the Bible and her ability to encourage others was always a blessing to us and I'm sure to many others. We will miss her! Terry & Ashlie Hilliard

Ashlie Hilliard - July 29, 2025 at 05:51 PM

AS

“ Ann was a beautiful Christian lady and wonderful friend. She always put others before herself. It was an honor to know her. She will be dearly missed. - The Still Family

Andrea Still - July 29, 2025 at 11:42 AM

WF

“ Workman family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ann Elizabeth (Smith) White.



Workman family - July 29, 2025 at 07:28 AM

VT

“ Ann met with me and JoAnn Palazola every week for prayer when we were members of the same church. She was such a blessing and I admired her inner strength and wisdom. I knew her as a faithful believer but had no idea of her childhood. What a testimony of the grace and power of our Lord. So thankful to know she's at home with Him forever.

Virginia Terrell - July 27, 2025 at 01:25 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Ann Elizabeth (Smith) White.



July 26, 2025 at 07:21 PM

TO

“ *The O'Dells purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ann Elizabeth (Smith) White.*



The O'Dells - July 26, 2025 at 12:29 PM

VB

“ *My Aunt Annie was one of my favorite Aunts during my childhood. When I stayed at her and Uncle JB's house, she was always cooking for us, laughing with us and she always took us to her church functions. She made me feel like I was just one of her girls when I was there. She had the patience of Job, and forgave us when we got into trouble! I will treasure my memories of family reunions and get together's at her home and will never forget the lovely phone call she asked the girl's to make to me last Christmas. I think in her heart she knew how much I loved her and my Epps family all of my life. I will see you in heaven with all who have gone before you Aunt Annie. I love you and thank God for the precious memories you gave to me. Valerie Watson Brown*

Valerie Watson Brown - July 25, 2025 at 06:24 PM

GB

“ *Aunt Annie was always so good to me as a young girl. I never realized she had worked so hard and was on her own at such a young age. She always made me feel loved. Her daughters, my cousins were blessed to have her for a Mom. I am sure God had his arms open to greet her. I am so glad I got to talk to her last year thanks to Alice for that. Be strong my cousins.
Love,
Glenda*

Glenda Barber - July 25, 2025 at 05:09 PM

MC

“ *Margie Collins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ann Elizabeth (Smith) White.*



Margie Collins - July 25, 2025 at 04:33 PM