



## Thelma Ruth Smith Crum

June 10, 1937 - August 27, 2017

Thelma Ruth Smith Crum, beloved mother, wife, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend, drifted off to sleep in an earthly atmosphere and awoke in a heavenly one on Sunday afternoon, August 27, 2017. She spent just a couple of days in the gentle care of Dignity Hospice House in Chapmanville, West Virginia before deciding that heaven sounded far better.

Born June 10, 1937 to the late Herbert Smith and Opal (Mike) Ooten, Thelma was the eldest of 9 siblings. Along with her parents and step-parents, Thelma was preceded in death by three brothers, Glen Smith, Eugene Smith, and Johnny Ooten; brothers-in-law, Thomas and Jack Crum, a sister-in-law, Ann Marcum, and her precious parents-in-law, Mont Crum and Maude (Jum) Jordan.

Thelma was a lady who epitomized hard work and a passion for the things of God. She served the Lord from the early 1960's for the remainder of her days; and she used her talents to bless others and to bless her church, the Regional (Delbarton) Church of God. A renowned cook, she not only served at the Lando facility of the Logan Mingo Mental Health, but also she served as the head cook/kitchen supervisor of the Mingo County Jail, retiring upon the opening of the Southwestern Regional Jail. It was often joked that criminals from neighboring counties fled into Mingo to be arrested, because they knew that the lady who cooked for the jail would feed them well (even the officers loved her cooking!). But not only did she cook as a profession, her culinary skills were well-known in the Delbarton community for church and community

socials; and for the many times she cooked and sent food to the needy, the shut-in, or a family with a loss. She and the ladies' auxiliary of the Delbarton Church of God paid off a sizeable portion of mortgage of the newly-built church through several dinners each month in the 1980's and early 90's, at which she would prepare huge, multiple kettles of chicken and dumplings, or huge pans of dressing for turkey dinners, and everything always sold out quickly. Thelma's love language was feeding and nurturing people she cared about. If you received one of her coveted "yellow cakes" or some of her tiny little apple turnover pies, you were marked as someone she cared about. Thelma worked with the children and youth of the original Delbarton Church of God, serving as a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School worker, participant in women's ministry, and volunteer for many years. One of her most cherished ways to serve her Lord was to worship in singing with the church choir---led, to her great delight, by her son, Tommy, and his wife, Deanna. She greatly loved music of many kinds. A firm believer that if one trains up a child in the way he should go, he won't depart from it, she prayed fervently for her family; and was able to leave behind a saved husband and sons and many other family members whose lives she influenced spiritually. She was a faithful friend to the late Pastor W.H. and Mildred Compton, for the first couple of decades as a member at the church; and then cherished being a member under the leadership of Pastor Mitchell and Regina Bias for the remaining 30 years.

Thelma was passionate as well about quilting; she produced dozens of extraordinary quilts over the years. When her illness confined her to a wheelchair with a painful neurological disease the final three years of her life, quilting was something that brought great comfort to her. Up until nearly the end, she was making quilt tops like she was on a mission, to be sure and bless as many of her family members as possible with her artistic gift. She was also well-known for her other skills as a seamstress, and made a lot of her family's clothing when her sons were still in school. She was not afraid of hard work, and her strong will would not let her spend her days idle.

Next to her love of God, Thelma's great love was her husband, Joe, as well as her sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren. She was a faithful, loving wife all the days of their 63 years together. She was "tough as a pine knot," but laughed and cried so easily and had a very tender, compassionate heart; it was the perfect combination for being a mother of boys. As the oldest child, she was like a second mother to her siblings as she helped raise them. She was a good daughter, serving as one of the caregivers to her mother, her stepfather, and even several elderly members of both her parent's and her husband's side of the family.

Thelma's legacy of great love, faith, honesty, and the ability to lead and serve with integrity will not be overshadowed by memories of what sickness tried to take away from her. It did not break her spirit; but eventually her desire to attain her heavenly home became greater than her desire to cling to the confines of an earthly one.

She temporarily leaves behind her family, who miss her deeply already: husband, Joe Crum; sons, Tommy (Deanna) Crum, and Dana (Lisa) Crum, all of Delbarton. Grandchildren, Coby (Angie) Crum, Cole (Jennifer) Crum, Chris Maynard, and Misty (Richard) Mullins. She has 12 great-grandchildren.

Thelma also has remaining her beloved sisters who were the most loving of caregivers, Ellen Crum and Jewell Mahon; brothers, Larry Smith, Ralph Ooten, Mike Jr. (Margie) Ooten, and Flip (Tammy) Ooten; as well as sisters-in-law Gertrude Richardson, Sue Enomoto, Johnnie Connolly; and brothers-in-law Mont Crum and Don Crum. Friends, nieces and nephews, and extended family, too many to count. (We apologize in advance if anyone was unintentionally omitted from this list...so much information to remember)

A homegoing celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, August 29, at 1:00 PM at Chafin Funeral Home in Delbarton, officiated by Pastor Mitchell Bias and Pastor Rick Hisle. Thelma's family will be greeting friends from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. She will be laid to rest in the Sparks family cemetery in Yellow Creek, Clifford, KY. Chafin Funeral Home is carrying out her final wishes just

as she requested.

In lieu of flowers, Thelma's legacy may be honored by donating to Regional Church of God, putting her fingerprints for a second time on the opportunity to expand and reach more people for the kingdom.

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chafin Funeral Home  
215 Riverside Drive  
Delbarton, WV 25670  
(304) 475-2071  
chafinh@frontier.com  
<https://www.chafinfuneralhome.com/>

## Burial

AUG 29 (CT)

Sparks Cemetery  
Yellow Creek, KY

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thelma Ruth Smith Crum*

November 21, 2022 at 02:05 PM



“ *My Condolence to the Crum family.*

**Chip Canterbury** - August 30, 2017 at 07:40 PM



“ *Gail Hatfield Ulisney lit a candle in memory of  
Thelma Ruth Smith Crum*



**Gail Hatfield Ulisney** - August 29, 2017 at 08:50 PM



“ *Melinda Grimes lit a candle in memory of  
Thelma Ruth Smith Crum*



**Melinda Grimes** - August 29, 2017 at 01:49 PM

MS

“ Mike And Pam Sheppard lit a candle in memory of Thelma Ruth Smith Crum



Mike and Pam Sheppard - August 29, 2017 at 10:15 AM

SL

“ SUE LIGHT lit a candle in memory of Thelma Ruth Smith Crum



SUE LIGHT - August 29, 2017 at 09:30 AM

SL

SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS DANA AND TOMMY SHE WAS A GREAT LADY

SUE LIGHT - August 29, 2017 at 09:31 AM

KS

This was Truly One Of The Most Beautiful Obituary's I have ever read ,Sending Prayers Of Comfort To All !! Who Had The Honer Of Loving and Knowing Her !! You Have My Deepest Sympathy Kathleen Sharar

Kathleen Sharar - August 29, 2017 at 09:37 AM

DF

*Thelma was a class act and a wonderful person. I have so many memories of her at the Delbarton Church of God growing up that they would be impossible to list. She was one of the nicest ladies I ever knew. I remember that we had many church dinners during those years, both at the old church building in Delbarton and the new building after 1980, and Thelma's cooking was always delicious! Love and prayers to all the family; remember that song by Petra "But we have this hope, though our hearts may still ache, just one shout from above and then they all will awake; in the reunion what joy we will see, death will be swallowed by sweet victory!"*

*Dave & Kim Farley & Family*

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David Farley - August 31, 2017 at 04:54 PM

DO

“ *Diana O'Briant lit a candle in memory of Thelma Ruth Smith Crum*



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Diana O'Briant - August 28, 2017 at 09:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thelma Ruth Smith Crum.*



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August 28, 2017 at 08:41 PM



“ Sue Robinette lit a candle in memory of  
Thelma Ruth Smith Crum



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**Sue Robinette** - August 28, 2017 at 08:10 PM



So sorry for your loss Jewel. You & your family are in our thoughts & prayers

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**Sue Robinette** - August 28, 2017 at 08:11 PM

KS

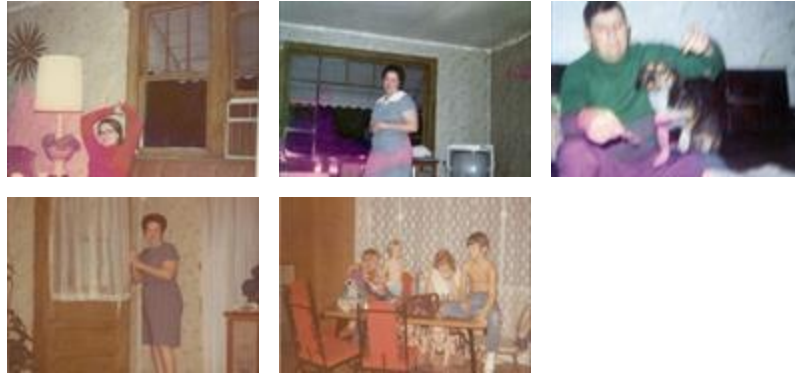
“ I have so many memories of my dear dear friend - I could not possibly share all of them; she was to me an example of what a Christian mother, wife, sister, daughter, grandmother, and friend should be. Many times during troubled times in my life, she always "gathered" me in her arms like a little chick and there I found great comfort and understanding. I know was in her prayers daily - I loved being in the choir with her - we always got each other "tickled" about something, and Tommy would give us dirty looks, which made it even hard to behave. I enjoyed being with her in her home and loved her wonderful meals - whenever I was there, I was home. Beautiful outside - oh, those beautiful eyes - and inside even more so - my sweet friend, I look forward to seeing you again on the other side. What joys you must be encountering! What joyous reunions you must have already experienced. You will be one of dearest friends who have gone before me who I will look for as soon as get to Heaven's shores.

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**Kathi Taylor Sherrill** - August 28, 2017 at 07:25 PM

MG

“ 13 files added to the album *Thelma*



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**Melinda Grimes** - August 28, 2017 at 06:09 PM

BP

“ *One of the finest women our little community has had the privilege to know. I had the pleasure to eat some of Thelma's great cooking because I worked with Joe for several years and he would share some of her great cooking, especially her wonderful fried pies. Thelma will be sadly missed. Our prayers are with you Joe, Tommy, Danna & the rest of the family. Love you Guys*

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**Bob & Billie Preece** - August 28, 2017 at 05:21 PM

DD

“ *Tommy, Dana & families,*

*I am sorry to hear about your Mother's passing. Even though I never had a chance to meet her, just reading about her showed me that she was an amazing woman! Earth may have lost an angel in her, but Heaven most definitely gained a wonderful angel!*

*Love, hugs, thoughts and prayers to you all.*

*Dianna Lockard Davis*

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**Dianna Lockard Davis** - August 28, 2017 at 04:18 PM

JF

“ Jack Copley & Family lit a candle in memory of Thelma Ruth Smith Crum



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**Jack Copley & Family** - August 28, 2017 at 03:52 PM

RG

“ I loved this kind hearted lady. There was no way you were going to leave Ms. Thelma's house without eating, some of the best cooking I have ever ate. R.I.P. my beloved R.I.P. Prayer's for my beloved Mr. Joe, Bro. Tommy and (Dana) aka Brutus Brute.

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**Richard Gravely** - August 28, 2017 at 03:48 PM

ST

“ Thelma impacted so many lives, thru her cooking, her crafts, her love of God and family. May you take comfort knowing that she will be missed on earth by all that had the pleasure to know her. My thoughts & prayers are with all the family and her many friends!

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**Sheila Trippett** - August 28, 2017 at 03:25 PM