



Helen (Sissy) Chance Burgstiner Smith

July 24, 1954 - August 11, 2024

Helen (Sissy) Chance Burgstiner Smith, 70, formerly of Albany, GA but retired to Black Mountain, NC after the death of her beloved husband Dr. Christopher C. Smith, died peacefully surrounded by family after a battle with brain cancer on Sunday, August 11, 2024. Sissy was born on July 24, 1954 in Miami, FL. She was the second of five children born to Helen Sharpe Burgstiner and Carson B. Burgstiner M.D. Sissy was married to Dr. Christopher C. Smith in 1976 in her hometown of Savannah, GA. They later moved to Albany, GA where they resided together from 1982-2021. She was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, and grandmother, and friend to many.

Sissy was reared in Savannah, GA and graduated from Savannah Country Day School in 1971 later attending the school of nursing at Augusta Medical College where she completed her RN in 1977. She was an accomplished athlete: sailor, bicyclist, scuba diver, basketball player, and runner. She also loved aerobics, dancing, yoga, spinning, and pilates; however, anyone who knew Sissy knows her true passion was golf. A highly skilled golfer, she became the River Pointe Golf Course Club Champion in 2010, and the next year of 2011 she won a Prius Toyota by scoring a hole-n-one at the Nancy Lopez Hospice Tournament at Doublegate Country Club. She will always be remembered for her thunderous drives from the golf tee and her booming laughter which typically followed.

As a committed Christian and deep believer in Jesus Christ she was self sacrificing and championed the notion of grace. Her unreserved sense of

humor and laughter were contagious, and had the ability to turn the mundane into a hilarious adventure. She was truly a kind and sweet soul and served with dedication the Whiz Kids literacy program and as a Deacon at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include her children: Campbell Smith (Heather) of St. Marys, Georgia and Cecilia Smith of Asheville, North Carolina; and Grand-Daughter Norah Rhodes Smith; her siblings, Will Burgstiner (Anna) of Savannah, Georgia; Beth Pittman (Noel) of Trussville, Alabama, and John Burgstiner (Jahn) of Loganville, GA; Sally Wagner (Gregg) of Littleton, Colorado; and her loving dog Sugabear and two cats Tuna and Champ. Sissy loved keeping up with her many numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom she dearly loved. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Whiz Kids Ministry at Covenant Presbyterian Church or your local Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Oak Ridge Cemetery

Tifton, GA

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Covenant Presbyterian Church
2216 W. Edgewater Dr.
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall

LD

“ *Sissy was Sissy! I loved that about her. She was a deep thinker, kind hearted and always interested in helping others have a fuller life. She was a volunteer tutor with Whiz Kids Tutoring for seven years. Her creative, fun-loving spirit made it fun for her student(s) to learn to read while helping place them on a path of success in school-in life. She seemed to have a twinkle of joy in her eyes working with her student(s) and she certainly brought joy to her student(s) and all around. She built loving, caring relationships with both student and their parents. She maximized each moment with her student(s) believing in them and encouraging them on a path of success. She was a wonderful tutor! She made a difference one child at a time. Sissy has left our world a better place. Much Love to you Sissy! Lee Don*

Lee Don - August 16, 2024 at 11:50 PM

TT

“ *The Salon Dulay Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Helen (Sissy) Chance Burgstiner Smith.*



The Salon Dulay Team - August 16, 2024 at 09:49 AM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Helen (Sissy) Chance Burgstiner Smith.*



August 15, 2024 at 09:50 PM

MS

“ Our hearts ache over the loss of our beloved Sissy. When we think of her, we will always remember how loving she was to all. Her heart overflowed with love to all who came into her life. We also will remember her wonderful laugh. Her children and Norah were the loves of her life. She also was so courageous. She faced losing her beloved Chris only 3 years ago with deep faith and courage. We will never forget her. She and Chris are now having a love fest in heaven. So thankful for Sissy’s life and what she meant to us.

molly swan - August 15, 2024 at 08:34 AM

SH

“ What a wonderful Person she was. So sorry to hear of her passing. I had the pleasure of spinning with she and Chris at 229. They are bak together. RIP

sandra h. Hancock - August 14, 2024 at 05:00 PM

BR

“ We met Sissy and Chris when we moved to Albany in 1993. Dan and Chris did a lot of surgeries together. We played golf with them a lot, including a trip to the Highlands and winning first place in a scramble golf tournament with them at River Pointe. Sissy was an avid golfer and a great friend. She will be missed. Your family will be in our prayers. Dan and Bonnie Rhoads

Bonnie Rhoads - August 13, 2024 at 11:37 PM

JB

“ Sissy was such a lovely person who truly adored her husband and family. After meeting her through Dr Chris, we became instant friends. She and I, along with Cadence, had quite a few adventures with lots and lots of laughter. I will always remember how well she loved her friends and family and how she could always find something to laugh about. Her laughter was contagious! She and Dr Chris were precious to me and I am so thankful they were in my life. My prayer is that the sweet and precious memories will make this sad time easier for you all. You will see her and Dr Chris again!!

Jenny Bostick - August 13, 2024 at 06:05 PM

CF

I'm so sorry to hear of Sissy's passing! I played golf with her at River Point with a group of sweet ladies! Sissy was a precious soul with such a kind giving heart! I know losing Chris was devastating to her and am so glad she is joining him in eternity where Jesus has prepared for all who know Him! Blessings on all the family in this time of grief! 🙏❤️🙏
Carol Fitzgerald

Carol fitzgerald - August 15, 2024 at 12:55 PM