



Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier

April 14, 1933 - April 10, 2015

Sylvia Sue Smith Lanier, 81, of Albany, died Friday, April 10, 2015 at her home.

Her funeral service will be at 11 AM on Monday, April 13, 2015 at Byne Memorial Baptist Church with interment to follow at Riverside Cemetery. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Nance will officiate. The family will receive friends at Byne Memorial Baptist Church on Monday prior to the funeral beginning at 10 AM.

Mrs. Lanier was born on April 14, 1933 in Plains, GA to Oliver Crawford Smith and Susie Antoinette Senn Smith. She was the valedictorian of Plains High School Class of 1949. She attended two years at Georgia Southwestern, two years at Mercer, and received her Masters Degree in education from Peabody (now part of Vanderbilt University) in 1954. She taught PE in Cartersville, GA, then in Camilla before teaching at Albany High School from 1957-1959. She left the school system between 1960-1971 to raise her children. She took classes at Albany Junior College (now Darton College) to become certified as a librarian. She returned to work in the Dougherty County School System at Sylvandale Elementary School in 1971. She left the Dougherty County School System and worked as a librarian in the Lee County School System at Lee County Elementary School until her retirement in 1990.

Mrs. Lanier was a member of Byne Memorial Baptist Church since 1949. She participated actively in international mission trips to Brazil, Germany, Panama,

Mexico, England, Korea, as well as many trips within the United States. She started the church library in 1963, and served as the church librarian almost continually until 2000. She taught Sunday School from 1956-2014, with the last 10 years with internationals teaching English as a second language. She was much loved by all whom she taught. She began teaching “Experiencing God” at Calhoun State Prison in 1999 with First Baptist Church. A year later, Byne Memorial Baptist Church began teaching “Experiencing God” at Autry State Prison. She taught faithfully at Autry State Prison until 2010. She played city league women’s basketball for several years and church league softball some years later. She was known as a devout Christian with a servant’s heart. Her hobbies included nature photography. She was a member of the Sunbelt Photography Club and the Albany Audubon Society.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Wiley Post Smith.

Mrs. Lanier’s survivors include her husband: William Donald Lanier, Albany; brother: Will Rogers Smith, Georgetown, GA; children: Lewis Tod Lanier, David Charles Lanier and his wife Cathy Lynn, Sue Angeline Lanier Freeman and her husband Greg, all of Albany; grandchildren: Amanda Leigh Lanier, Nathan Donald Lanier and his wife Anna, Andrew Martin Lanier and his wife Brittany, Lanier Allen Freeman, and Kendyll Ashley Freeman.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Living the Legacy, c/o Byne Memorial Baptist Church, 2832 Ledo Rd., Albany, GA 31707.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

200 Cotton Ave
Albany, GA 31707

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **13**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Byne Memorial Baptist Church
2832 Ledo Rd
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Gina Carter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier*



Gina Carter - December 15, 2017 at 03:26 AM



“ *Mrs. Lanier was always such a nice person who excelled in whatever she undertook. She organized the Lee County Primary School library. and served as its first librarian. Our sincere sympathy to her family.*

Betty Ann and Bobby Clay

Robert A. Clay - April 17, 2015 at 01:50 PM

MM

“ *Sylvia sent me such encouraging emails. Some days, living on the field of overseas mission life, an email hearing from a prayer warrior would do wonders! I loved getting her emails. Sometimes she would tell me about the blooming flowers, other times about her and Donny's busy ministries. She kept me feeling "at home" away from home. I never doubted her intense prayers. God has spoken through Mrs. Sylvia, into my life. I am so thankful for her support...for all of the Lanier's in our life. God has worked in more ways than I could possibly mention. She will be dearly missed. I wish I could have been there for her funeral. Much love, The McLane Family*

Maya McLane - April 14, 2015 at 03:18 PM

DF

“ *I wanted you to know how much Sylvia was loved by the teachers and students. There are so many wonderful memories...let me just tell you a few. She loved to read stories to the children and would dress up or have a surprise ending to a book. She loved to read the Steven Kellogg story about a boa constrictor. At the end of the story, she would open a jar and snakes made of springs would fly out. We screamed and then we laughed. One Christmas, she cut out quail from wood and used a wood burning tool to make the feathers, wings and face. She gave one to each member of the faculty. I hang mine from our tree every year. Sylvia always pulled all the seasonal books for the teachers, so that we could share children's literature with our students. I loved the way she would travel around Lee County to clean out the blue bird house for the upcoming spring. It was such a privilege to know Sylvia and see the love of children and animals in her eyes. My memories of her will always remain close to my heart.*



Sincerely, Donna Ford

Donna Ford - April 14, 2015 at 10:08 AM

CS

“ Our prayers and love go out to Donnie and family in the loss of this beautiful Christian lady. Words cannot describe the love of Christ that she lived every day. She is a shining example of what a true "Saint" should be. I cannot think of just one special memory because whenever we have been together with Sylvia and Donnie it has been special. Jan & I hate that we could not reschedule her Doctor Appointment and my appointments to be able to attend the funeral but know that we have been praying for all of you during her illness. Clayton & Jan Smith

Clayton Smith - April 13, 2015 at 05:30 PM

RM

“ THE one word which describes Sylvia Lanier is Christian. In every respect she was a Christian. Although she has left us, what a joy she gave to others with her compassion, love, outreach, and service. May God bless each of you everyday-always. Raleigh and Gail Mann, Macon.

Raleigh and Gail Mann - April 13, 2015 at 09:39 AM

OS

“ Tod, Donny, my sincere condolences. I was the ringbearer at Sylvia's wedding, and I have nothing but beautiful memories of her. I know her to be a constant, cheerful beacon of light, and I wish you every comfort until you see her again.

Best wishes, Steve Senn

Oscar Senn - April 13, 2015 at 09:18 AM

AA

“ *Ann Alvis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier*



Ann Alvis - April 13, 2015 at 09:09 AM

TM

“ *I have found memories of Mrs Lanier when growing up at Byne. So sorry to hear of her passing.*

Tommy Milner - April 13, 2015 at 07:56 AM

BW

“ *I worked Mrs. Lanier at the Lee County Primary School as her media assistant. She was a delight to work with and showed the children and me how important it is to love to read and be good stewards of books. She was a very sweet and loving person that was a joy to know. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Brenda Wise

Brenda Wise - April 13, 2015 at 07:44 AM

MS

“ *Tod, sorry to hear about your loss. It sounds likes your mother was a wonderful woman and is now enjoying life abundant with Jesus Christ. Mark Stalvey*

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Mark Stalvey - April 13, 2015 at 07:44 AM

WM

“ *Tod, We are thinking about you, Bill McMath*

William McMath - April 13, 2015 at 07:16 AM

JF

“ *I know she was a fine lady because she shined through Tod Lanier and the rest of the family. She will be missed but she left this world better than she found it.*

Jason Faircloth - April 13, 2015 at 07:06 AM

JF

“ *Jason Faircloth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier*



Jason Faircloth - April 13, 2015 at 06:28 AM

VB

“ God bless all of the family! Mrs Sylvia always had a smile and willingness to lend a hand. A Beautiful portrait of living for Jesus.

Valerie Lamb Branch - April 12, 2015 at 07:29 PM

OC

“ I enjoyed working with Sylvia for many years in Lee County. I found her to be a fine Christian Woman whom I loved and admired. I enjoyed having her and Donnie visit me at my mountain home in Clayton. I know where she is and will be praying for Donnie and family. I have broken my ankle and will be unable to attend her funeral.

Opal Cannon - April 12, 2015 at 04:06 PM



“ My Aunt, Mary Emma Williams worked for Mrs. Sylvia's mother-in-law, and she always spoke very highly of Mrs. Sylvia and Mr. Donnie as well. I pray that the God of all peace will comfort you and your family, Mr. Donnie.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Williams Jackson

Jacqueline Jackson - April 12, 2015 at 02:32 PM

DT

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Praise our Lord that she is now dancing on those streets of Gold.
Debbie Titus

Debbie Titus - April 12, 2015 at 06:23 AM

PA

“ *Peggy Bradford & Astrid Arias lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sylvia Smith Lanier*



Peggy Bradford & Astrid Arias - April 11, 2015 at 11:57 AM