



Carolyn K. Smith

December 2, 1927 - November 9, 2025

Carolyn K. Smith was born December 2, 1927 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska to German (Volga Germans from Russia) immigrants; George and Mary K. Lackmann. The 8th child of 10, she learned to speak English in a one room schoolhouse and from her older siblings, as her parents worked hard to also learn the language. They lived on a farm raising crops, cows, chickens etc. When Carolyn was 7 years old the family moved to Hardin, Montana where they rented a farm on an Indian reservation. Carolyn recalls riding in the car with her father to meet Chief Yellowtail to pay the rent. When Carolyn was 13 they moved one more time to a farm in Moorhead, Minnesota.

She graduated high school in 1947 attending high school on the Moorhead State Teachers College campus.

Her family had natural musical talent. Carolyn played the piano and accordion by ear and sang tenor/alto. Her brothers also played piano, guitar, violin, and they would often have living room jam sessions. She loved to dance and roller skate. She was always known for her great sense of humor. She had many lifelong girlfriends and was always the “life of the party”.

In 1952 her brother Chuck serving in the army at Fort Riley Kansas, invited his army buddy Donald Smith to join him on a weekend pass to the Lackmann family home.

A romance began.

Carolyn later moved to Kansas City and worked in a laundromat/dry cleaner, sewing military patches on Service men's shirts and jackets. Carolyn and Don were married in June of 1954 and made their home in Overland Park, Kansas.

Family summers were spent in Minnesota with her large family and friends. Carolyn and Don were married for 68 years.

Carolyn's top priority in life was to be a mother. She and Don had four daughters and together poured themselves wholeheartedly into providing a home rooted in their Christian faith and values. Carolyn devoted her full-time life to making a comfortable home and raising 4 girls. She was a fantastic cook, and all were welcome at the table. She also was quite the seamstress, making clothes for herself and her daughters, including multiple choir dresses!

She loved all children and would take in extra kids at home to babysit. She worked at a daycare/preschool several years later in life and really loved the opportunity to be around the children every day. She would host birthday parties in her kitchen for neighborhood kids, always remembering their individual birthdays. She would make cupcakes and let them apply the frosting.

A strong but fair disciplinarian, she was loved and respected by not only her own children, but All children who knew her.

Carolyn was mentally strong, kind and nurturing, easy-going and generous. She had a great sense of humor and always made people laugh. She loved to celebrate, laugh and have fun. She had a very long happy life and will be missed by all who knew her.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her loving husband Don Smith, her parents and siblings.

She is survived by their 4 daughters and many nieces and nephews who loved their "Auntie Carolyn".

A Celebration of Life will be held December 2, 2025 at 11:00am.

Church of the Resurrection, Wesley Covenant Chapel

13720 Roe Ave. Leawood, KS 66224

<https://online.brushfire.com/careandmentalwellness/memorials/pn8kr9jb9k>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Resurrection, Wesley Covenant Chapel
13720 Roe Ave
Leawood, KS 66224

Tribute Wall



“ *Victoria Vierling sent a virtual gift in memory of Carolyn Smith*



Victoria Vierling - December 02, 2025 at 11:35 AM



“ *Jay Lackmann & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn K. Smith.*

Jay Lackmann & Family - December 01, 2025 at 08:38 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Carolyn K. Smith.*



December 01, 2025 at 08:38 AM



“ *Teresa M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn K. Smith.*

Teresa M. - November 30, 2025 at 06:11 PM

AN

“ Angie purchased the *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* for the family of Carolyn K. Smith.



Angie - November 28, 2025 at 03:11 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Carolyn K. Smith.



November 26, 2025 at 01:41 PM

DD

“ *Dealer Development at John Deere* purchased the *Sweet Sincerity* for the family of Carolyn K. Smith.



Dealer Development at John Deere - November 21, 2025 at 02:11 PM

DD

“ *Dealer Development at John Deere* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn K. Smith.

Dealer Development at John Deere - November 21, 2025 at 02:11 PM

RA

“ Robert and Denise Ayers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn K. Smith.

Robert and Denise Ayers - November 21, 2025 at 11:18 AM

RA

“ Robert and Denise Ayers purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Carolyn K. Smith.



Robert and Denise Ayers - November 21, 2025 at 11:18 AM

SM

“ I was one of the neighborhood girls that had the privilege to celebrate my birthday at her house growing up. With the cupcakes, frosting, and skits! She was a beautiful Godly women inside and out. Even though I know she's with the Lord, she will be missed dearly.



samyu miller - November 19, 2025 at 04:13 PM

HO

Samyu, she loved having you girls! You gave her such joy when you visited! Can you make it to the service for her? It will be on what would have been her 98th birthday!

Holly - November 20, 2025 at 08:02 PM

HO

We would love to see you Samyu! Can you come to the service?

Holly - November 20, 2025 at 08:04 PM

LM

“ Lee morgan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Carolyn K. Smith.



Lee morgan - November 18, 2025 at 05:30 PM

MH

“ Mujahid H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn K. Smith.

Mujahid H. - November 17, 2025 at 10:42 AM

DO

“ The first time I met Don and Carolyn it was as a Mary Kay consultant. Unlike any other first MK visit, they made me feel like I was a treasured friend. Other visits would always include coffee and a snack, one day they feed me lunch. She invited me to come visit anytime and I occasionally did. Later on her daughter started selling MK but Carolyn made it clear to me that I was still her MK consultant, I was touched by her genuine love and friendship. I will always remember her and her sense of humor.

Deb Owens - November 15, 2025 at 08:31 AM

HC

“ *It is with a sad heart that I say goodbye to Carolyn. What a wonderful, intelligent, vivacious woman. I remember her from years back just as stated in this obituary.*

She and my stepfather, Herman Strecker, were cousins. Herman's mother was a Lackman. When they would get together, they were two of a kind, cracking jokes in their native German. They would have a great laugh, as the rest of us were wondering what the joke was!!.

It is such a treat to hear Carolyn's history. She was smart, funny, beautiful, vivacious, and you could just feel the love between her and "Red", as we called her lifelong partner and husband.

The world has definitely lost a beaming light with the passing of Carolyn. But, she is now with her loving husband, her family, and cracking jokes in German. God bless you, and we will miss you.

With love, Heather Charles

Heather Charles - November 14, 2025 at 08:00 PM