



Mary J. Smith

December 9, 1945 - May 18, 2025

Mary J. Smith, age 79, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, May 18, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born on December 9, 1945, in Kansas City, Kansas, she was the beloved daughter of Wilma Nelson. Mary had a warm spirit and a deep love for the simple joys in life. She enjoyed watching Lifetime and Hallmark movies, exploring Tubi TV, and especially treasured outings to the casino and her cherished trips to “Willy Willy” (Goodwill) with family. For over six decades, Mary was the proud operator of Paul’s Drive-In, where she built a legacy of dedication and community. She retired in 2021 but remained excited about its upcoming reopening. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Smith; mother, Wilma Nelson; her daughter, Starla Hamel (Buddy); and her sisters, Donna and Georgianna. Mary is survived by her children: Don Harris (Sue), Kim Dempsey (John), Charlie Harris, and Melissa Dillon (Robert); her siblings: George, Kathy, Cheryl, and Mark; grandchildren: James, Jennifer, Melissa, Charity, Tiffany, Micheal, Sarah, Hannah, Kelly, Emma, and Jacob; and many great-grandchildren who brought her immense pride and joy. In accordance with her wishes, no formal services will be held.

Tribute Wall

SC

“ *Mary was a wonderful person she was like a second mom to me spent a lot of time at her house
She had a nickname for me she called me MaBelle
Her daughter Kim and I were best friends and still best friends she will definitely be missed
I will keep her family in my prayers*

Sheryl

sheryl Craig - May 20, 2025 at 07:32 PM

CB

“ *crystal boatright lit a candle in memory of
Mary Smith*



crystal boatright - May 20, 2025 at 06:24 PM

SS

“ *Mary Smith was one of the most loving and caring Aunt that anyone could ask for.
She will be missed.*



Sherel Scharschell - May 20, 2025 at 03:44 PM

JF

“ Julie Maudlin & Family lit a candle in memory of Mary Smith



Julie Maudlin & Family - May 20, 2025 at 12:23 PM

JM

Mary was kind and giving and she touched many lives! She will always be remembered by family, friends and many of the patrons who frequented Paul's over the years!

Julie Maudlin - May 22, 2025 at 11:13 PM

HG

“ Hazel Grippando lit a candle in memory of Mary Smith



Hazel Grippando - May 20, 2025 at 12:18 AM

HG

“ *Mary was such a caring person who was loved by so many people. She was a person that would help anyone if she could. It was always a pleasure to see her when you went to Paul's. She maybe gone but she will never be forgotten. R.I.P. Mary Smith*

Hazel Grippando - May 20, 2025 at 12:17 AM