



Elsie Leary

May 10, 1924 - December 30, 2006

Elsie Juanita Kepley Holshouser Smithwick Leary, 82, of Greenfield Dr, Portsmouth, VA, beloved wife of BJ Leary, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother, went to be with the Lord Saturday, Dec. 30, 2006, at Sentura Leigh Hospital in Norfolk, VA.

Mrs. Leary, a North Carolina native, was born May 10, 1924, in Franklin Township, Rowan County, the daughter of Carvie Lindsey and Elsie Coughenour Kepley. She attended church in Norfolk until her health declined.

Mrs. Leary's 1st job was in the Kannapolis cotton mill in NC. Following the death of her 1st husband, David, she was a chauffer for the Army in Norfolk during World War II, traveled the world with her 2nd husband, the father of her children, Ret. 1st Sgt. O.B. Smithwick, moved the family to Portsmouth and married BJ Leary 32 years ago then retired from Food Giant.

Survivors include her loving husband BJ Leary; children Eileen Conway, Linda Ron Widener of Douglasville, GA and Oswald B. Laura Smithwick Jr. of Washington, NC; step children Kathy, Nora, Johnny and Pattie Ann Leary of Va, FL, PA and OH ; sisters Mozel Gary Goodman of Shalotte, NC and Pansey Ronnie Sells of Salisbury, NC; brother Bobbie Marlene Kepley of Salisbury, NC; brother-in-law Eddie Lewis of Virginia Beach, VA; sister-in-laws Pauline Bonner of Virginia Beach, VA and Ophelia Jack Kepley of Salisbury, NC; grandchildren Reggie Brandie Widener of Whitesburg, GA, Walter KaCee Widener of Tallahassee, FL, Emily Jeff Ballew of Kennesaw, GA, Chloe Conway of Hoover, AL; great-grandchildren R.J. Widener and Jacob Ballew;

an uncle, several cousins, nieces, nephews and step-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husbands David Holshouser of Salisbury, NC and Oswald Smithwick of Washington, NC, sisters Helen Lewis, Velma Peregory, Faye Loving and Olene Kepley; brothers C.B. Kepley, Lloyd Kepley and Jack Kepley; and step-son Jimmy Leary. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Wednesday in Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel by Rev. W. Thomas Wood, with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends in the funeral home on Tuesday from 7-8 PM.

Tribute Wall



“ *BJ and Family,
Sorry for the loss of Elsie, she is in a better place. I know what you all went thru, I just lost my brother on the 7th of January. It is hard to imagine life with not seeing our loved ones. Elsie is with her sister Faye Loving and the rest of her family. May she rest in peace. My prayers are with you. Just hang in there BJ. Maybe we will see you at Bingo.
Love You,*

Anna##imported-begin##Anna Loving##imported-end##

January 17, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *our prayers are with you bj.our mother,willow scott,was in the bed next to elsie at lake taylor.we'll miss the times we all shared at lake taylor because you both were inspirations to everyone.##imported-begin##andy and virginia castelow##imported-end##*

January 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *BJ, Eileen, Linda and Ozzie,
My thoughts are with you during this time of loss. I'll always remember Elsie with smiles. She had a way of making you feel special!
Love
Sally##imported-begin##Sally Goodman##imported-end##*

January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear B.J., Linda, Eileen & Ozzie,
I am so glad Will & I could be there for you all. We love Aunt Elsie and she will always be in our hearts. We know she is at peace with the Lord and all her family in heaven. May the Lord watch over you all and heal you all through this sorrow. We love you all and you will be in our prayers.

God bless you,

Candice & Will##imported-begin##Candy Chick##imported-end##

January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear BJ, Eileen, Linda, Ozzie & Family,
Please find comfort and peace in knowing that all of us in our extended family share your beautiful memories of our beloved Elsie. She was a dear Aunt to me and also, like another dear Mother. I will always remember the time in 1958 when we all became one family for awhile, when your dear Wife and Mother, gave us love and comfort, when our Mama was very ill in the hospital. Aunt Elsie was always a loving, giving woman that everyone adored and a wonderful Wife, Mother, Sister, Grandmother and Aunt. God Bless Her and keep her safe and well in his Heavenly Home. Bless you all.

Love,

Rita and Jack & Family##imported-begin##Rita L. Fiske##imported-end##

January 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Leary, Linda, Eileen and Ozzy*
My sincere sympathy for your loss. Your family will be a source of great comfort during these next few weeks. Remember the good times. She always knew you were there for her. Kathy##imported-begin##Kathy Humphrey##imported-end##

January 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM