



## Clarie Austin Smith

January 12, 1938 - March 9, 2026

Claire Austin Smith transitioned peacefully on March 9, 2026, in Lexington, South Carolina.

Born in Laurens, South Carolina, she was the fifth of eight children born to the late Larry Austin and Lillian Garrett Austin. Claire attended the public schools of Laurens County and was a proud graduate of Sanders High School, Class of 1956.

While attending Sanders High School in 1954, she met the love of her life, Willie Clyde Smith, Jr. Their love blossomed, and they were united in holy matrimony on June 7, 1959, in Laurens, South Carolina. To this loving union, five children were born.

As a devoted military wife, Claire lovingly supported her husband during his service in the United States Army. His tours of duty included assignments at Fort Bragg, Fort Gordon, Fort Sill, and Fort Stewart, along with foreign tours primarily in Germany. Throughout these years, she dedicated herself to creating a warm, nurturing home while raising their children, occasionally joining her husband during his stateside and overseas assignments.

Having been raised on a farm in Laurens, Claire believed strongly in teaching her children the values of hard work, simple living, and strong spiritual

principles. In her spare time, she enjoyed cultivating beautiful gardens, participating in her bowling league, supporting her children's sports activities, and selling Avon.

While living in Laurens, Claire was a faithful member of Flat Ruff Baptist Church. After relocating to Columbia, South Carolina in 1983, she and her husband became devoted members of Bluff Road United Methodist Church, where she sang in the church choir and was active in the United Methodist Women.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Annie Laura Montgomery and Sallie Stroud, and four brothers, Jessie Austin, Will Henry Austin, Larry Austin, and James Austin.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories her beloved husband of 67 years, Willie Clyde Smith, Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina; three daughters: Patricia Smith Butler of Grovetown, Georgia; April Smith Phillips of Charlotte, North Carolina; and Theresa Smith of Columbia, South Carolina; two sons: Willie C. Smith, III of Irmo, South Carolina and Gerald (Crystal) Smith of Blythewood, South Carolina; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends.

LIVE STREAM LINK TO SERVICE

<https://www.youtube.com/@bluffroadumc-columbiasc4667>

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAR 17. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## A Celebration of Life

MAR 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bluff Road UMC  
109 Carswell Drive  
Columbia , SC 29209

## Live Streaming

MAR 18.

LIVE STREAM LINK TO SERVICE

<https://www.youtube.com/@bluffroadumc-columbiasc4667>

## Interment

MAR 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

Fort Jackson National Cemetery  
4170 Percival Rd  
Columbia, SC 29229-8307  
(803) 699-2246



# Tribute Wall

RB

“ To Patricia, Mr. Smith and family, please know that we are praying for you during this difficult time. May God grace keep and support you in days to come. With love and prayers we are here for you. 🙏



Ronnie & Nancy Beard

Ronnie & Nancy Beard - March 18 at 10:53 AM

JF

“ Jerry, Marsha Brooks and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Clarie Austin Smith.



Jerry, Marsha Brooks and Family - March 17 at 10:30 AM

JF

“ Jerry, Marsha Brooks and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clarie Austin Smith.

Jerry, Marsha Brooks and Family - March 17 at 10:30 AM

MG

“ Mrs. Smith always had a very sweet, and pleasant spirit. I pray that the Lord will give you All the comfort and strength you need during this most precious and difficult time.



Mary Golston - March 16 at 12:17 PM

MG

“ *Mrs Claire Smith was one of the sweetest persons I knew. I pray that the Lord will give you All the strength and comfort you need during this most precious and trying time.*

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**Mary Golston** - March 15 at 10:42 PM

MG

“ *Mary Golston lit a candle in memory of Clarie Austin Smith*



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**Mary Golston** - March 15 at 10:38 PM

RC

“ *Ramsey Calhoun purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Clarie Austin Smith.*



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**Ramsey Calhoun** - March 15 at 09:30 PM

RC

“ *Ramsey Calhoun planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clarie Austin Smith.*

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**Ramsey Calhoun** - March 15 at 09:30 PM

CR

“ *Charles Riley lit a candle in memory of Clarie Austin Smith*



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**Charles Riley** - March 15 at 09:22 PM

LM

“ *Sending hugs and prayers to the family as they mourn the loss of their mother. She was a gentle and loving woman. I have known the family for almost 50 years and thought of Mrs Smith as a 2nd mother. She will truly be missed.*

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**Latanya Mclain** - March 15 at 12:20 PM

LM

“ *Latanya Mclain lit a candle in memory of Clarie Austin Smith*



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**Latanya Mclain** - March 15 at 12:16 PM

TE

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.*



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**Tammy Edwards** - March 14 at 09:22 PM

BR

“ Burrella R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clarie Austin Smith.

Burrella R. - March 14 at 12:57 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clarie Austin Smith.



March 14 at 11:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Clarie Austin Smith.

March 14 at 11:17 AM