



Gloria M. Smith

February 1, 1926 - June 6, 2013

SMITH - Gloria Miligi, age 87, loving wife of the late Wesley Lott Smith and the late Charles K Nostrand, loving Mother of Tracey and Don McCauley, Kimberly Hysni, Dana Smith, Westey and Frank Mandriota. Sensational Grandmother of Krystie McCauley Inman, Brooke McCauley Bowmar, Brittney McCauley Wichard, Blake Hysni Fechser, Brittany and Tiele Hysni, Alexandria and Gabriella Mandriota. Adoring Great Grandmother of 6 ½ great grandchildren. Surrogate mother of 100+ grown "kids" from her extended family the Huntington Thunderers.

Gloria Smith was a fearless dynamo, born in Freeport NY. She swam in the Jones Beach Water Ballet and graduated from Syracuse University where she was the featured Baton twirler and fire baton twirler with the Syracuse Marching Band. She married Wesley L. Smith of Baldwin, who was a Jones Beach Lifeguard and played football at Syracuse. Gloria was an elementary school teacher in Merrick and started teaching baton twirling in the late 1950s. She taught twirling for many years at St Pat's School in Huntington and had students from all over LI. In 1964, she founded and became Director of the Huntington Thunderers, a champion Musical Corps Marching Band with baton twirlers and a band with a unique jazzy sound playing Cole Porter tunes and big band songs, arranged by the late Clem DeRosa and Ray Wilson. The Thunderers won multiple Grand National Championships and World Show Corp championship and Gloria's twirling teams and solo students excelled,

winning many National awards throughout the years. The Thunderers marched in 4 consecutive NY Macys Day parades, the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, and were invited to France, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the US Virgin islands to perform and represent the United States and the youth of America. The Thunderers recorded an album in 1970, Artistry In Swing, with songs like St Louis Blues, April In Paris, Girl From Ipanema and Watermelon Man, performed by the talented Thunderers musicians 18yrs and younger. The Thunderers had a Junior Corps as well who also won the Grand National Champions title and performed in the USVI for Carnival in 1972. In 1978, Gloria co-wrote The Complete Book of Baton Twirling with longtime friend and competitor Fred Miller, Director of Millers Blackhawks in Ohio.

In 1973, Gloria expanded her talents and opened the wonderful Yankee Peddler Antiques and Workshop in Huntington Station NY, an antique emporium with over 20 dealers on 3 floors, offering furniture stripping and refinishing – and the "best stripper in town!". In 1979, Gloria and her husband Wes bought and restored a spectacular historic waterfront home on Huntington Harbor, East Point, that she successfully marketed as a spectacular Location spot for print ads, commercials and movies, such as Dogs of War with Christopher Walken and JoBeth Williams, a Debbie Gibson music video, the movie Empire with Isabella Rossellini and John Leguizamo, Central Park West TV show, Italian and French Vogue and Elle magazines, plus many celebrities such as Howie Long in his Hanes Underwear, Lena Horn, Steve Allen, top NFL players, and James Earl Jones who "let his fingers do the walking", to mention a few.

Gloria Smith, loving wife, mother, friend, teacher, mentor, and devoted director of the Huntington Thunderers touched and influenced the lives of so many children and families. She did so with kindness, selfless devotion, unconditional love, positive inspiration, enthusiasm, perseverance, and her all-consuming belief that all children are wonderful, can soar to greatness and

achieve things they never dreamed possible. Gloria, loved and admired by so many, continues to have a vast and loyal extended family of those she touched, as she led her life of success and exceptional achievement with the following beliefs and practices:

The greatest virtue is Kindness! Be enthusiastic! Think positively! Try Passionately! Be Vulnerable! Be a Risk Taker! Smile - it pays big dividends! Trust in God! Be generous of yourself and help others whenever you can! We are all heartbroken and grieving the loss of our spectacular, fun, crazy, talented, loving and always positive Gloria Smith!

Gloria, our Gogo, our Mom - you live on in our hearts forever. We love you and miss you so.

Cemetery Details

Greenfield Cemetery

650 Nassau Rd
Uniondale, NY 11553
<http://toh.li/greenfield-cemetery>

Previous Events

Friday Visitation

JUN 14. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc.
1380 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 423-2185
jacobsenfuneral@gmail.com

Friday Visitation

JUN 14. 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM (ET)

A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc.
1380 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 423-2185
jacobsenfuneral@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Gloria M. Smith*

November 27, 2022 at 05:33 PM



“ *79 files added to the album New Album Name*



Westey Smith - June 14, 2013 at 05:57 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gloria M. Smith.*



June 13, 2013 at 07:39 PM

KT

“ Westey, Tracey, Kim and Dana - my prayers are with you and your families. I will always remember your Mom as a dear friend to my Dad. They remained friends for decades after the Thunderer years. Your Mom sent me a key to the Malibu condo when I lived in Southern California just in case I wanted to get away to the beach. Your Mom would share anything she had if you were her friend. I remember her kindnesses over the years. Baton twirling lessons at the NY State Armory began it all so many years ago. I will always hear your Mom's voice on the phone, happy and smiling. Love to you all - Karen Tinnerholm

Karen Tinnerholm - June 11, 2013 at 06:24 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gloria M. Smith.



June 11, 2013 at 03:04 PM

RS

“ dana westy and family, so sorry to hear about your mom. tons of memories dating back to west hills(twinkle toes), very sad, remember all the good times and your mom will never be far.....love to all rob schacter

rob schater - June 11, 2013 at 02:33 PM

LF

“ Love, The Riccardi Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Gloria M. Smith.



Love, The Riccardi Family - June 11, 2013 at 01:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gloria M. Smith.



June 11, 2013 at 09:12 AM

GM

“ Kim, Tracey, Dana & Westy, your mom was a mom for so many of us. She made us all believe anything was possible and provided us with the courage and confidence to be successful. It was a time in our lives when we were all working on becoming successful happy adults and she gave us that leadership to follow. For some of us we met our spouses because of the Thunderers. Tom and I were married 32 years on the day she went to heaven. The thunderers are always a major part of us and our family. We will always remember the fun, hard work and friends we made. Heaven is a lucky place to have Mrs. Smith there. I'm sure she is already planning some fantastic never been done before event for all. God bless you all. Thanks for sharing your mom with us.

Gail McDermott Morrirt - June 10, 2013 at 10:17 PM

WM

“ My deepest condolences to the family for such a great loss, she was one of a kind. My thoughts & prayers are with all of you at this most difficult time

Wendy Mollico Messina - June 10, 2013 at 06:11 PM

JA

“ There are a life changing moments in everyone's lives. I'm not sure Gloria realized at the time she started the Mighty Thunderers ,the affects it would have on our collective lives. I for one am grateful for Gloria passing on to me a compassion for competition and emotional tie to all those involved. The thoughts and memories of those years have helped influence all of her Thunderers lives. Although too much time has passed. Those memories seem to be embedded in my soul as strong as ever. To Tracy ,Kim ,Dana and Westy. As to all of their immediate family. You were blessed to have such a wonderful lady as your Mother and Grandmother. And we were lucky for you to have shared her with us. In good times (there were plenty) and rough (and we had some rough). Gloria was the heart and soul. that kept pushing us to perfection. God Bless all.
John Auletta

John Auletta - June 09, 2013 at 04:20 PM

CH

“ Tracey, Kim, Dana and Westey: Your mom was one in a million! She made being a Thunderer fun. Your mom taught me sportsmanship which I taught my two boys, she taught us to hold our heads high no matter what the final outcome was. She is in my prayers and she will always have a special place in my heart.
Love to you all
Cheryl Mirando Wieser



cheryl - June 08, 2013 at 09:53 PM

MK

“ Tracey, Kim, Dana and Westey: You mom was a true Lady in the finest sense of the word. When I was 9 years old she started teaching me twirling, and in a few years I was delighted to be a twirler for the Thunderers, beating the Blackhawks for the first time. Your mom taught me real life lesson - honor, integrity, social grace, sportsmanship, loyalty, the benefits of hard work and perseverance. I will always love all of you - Thunderers are bonded for life. I've entered her name in the prayer request book at my church in Virginia, and will pray for all of you too. Thank you to the 4 of you being so sweet and helpful to me when I entered the Thunderers. Love to all.



Meg Plastino Kutzenberger

Meg Pastino Kutzenberger - June 08, 2013 at 09:16 PM

PF

“ Tracey, Kim, Dana & Westey, Your mother was a special person in the lives of my sisters, Nancy Chojnowski Ryan, Kathleen Chojnowski Freeman & the late - Jacqueline Chojnowski Masi, participants in the Thuderers. Our family appreciated your mother and Dana's presence at Jackie's funeneral 7 years ago. Thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time. Pauline Chojnowski Fogelsanger, Port Matilda, PA

Pauline Chojnowski Fogelsanger - June 08, 2013 at 11:37 AM

 Connie
Todd

“ Tracy, Kim, Dana, & Westey,
The difference your mom made in my life is immeasurable. She boosted the confidence of a little red haired, freckle face girl, making her believe if she worked very hard, she could accomplish anything. I have carried her confidence in me throughout my life, and always will. I met her in the basement of St Pat's in 3rd grade & begged my parents to let me take twirling lessons. The rest is history. What wonderful experiences I had with the Huntington Thunderers! She created a bond that will hold all of us together forever. I hope you can feel the love that is surrounding you now, from her, and from all of us. Love & hugs to you all, Connie Crane Todd

Connie Todd - June 08, 2013 at 11:07 AM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Gloria M. Smith.*



June 08, 2013 at 06:04 AM

DL

“ *Our love and deepest sympathy to all for your loss. As you know, it is a great loss, too, for the many whom Gloria loved and inspired through the years. May the many happy memories that she created console us in this time of sadness.*
Diane DeMeo Leddy and John Leddy

Diane DeMeo Leddy - June 08, 2013 at 05:50 AM

DO

“ *My deepest condolences to the family for your loss, one day soon, death will be swallowed up forever - Isaiah 25:8.*

Doris - June 07, 2013 at 07:48 PM