

Evelyn Smith Sneed Morse was born on June 22, 1947, in Americus, Georgia to the late Eddie Frank Smith, Sr. and the late Charlie Bell Small Smith. She was the first of ten children raised with abundant love and affection by Mr. and Mrs. Smith. She lived an exemplary life which was a tribute to her parents and a blessing to so many in her circle. Evelyn entered the gates of heaven joining her Lord and Savior, her parents, a brother (Reginald) and a sister (Rose) on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

From her early childhood, several in the community recognized Evelyn's intellectual curiosity and encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming a professional educator. The love of learning was a cornerstone of her life that she endeavored to share with everyone. She graduated from Sumter County High School in 1965 as salutatorian and then matriculated to Fort Valley State College, where she graduated in 1969. She earned a Master of Education with an emphasis in early childhood education from the University of Georgia in 1984. Thereafter, she successfully completed all of her coursework at the University of Georgia toward a PhD in education. She ultimately decided to not return to Athens, GA to finish her doctorate dissertation so that her son could finish high school in Allendale, SC. This difficult decision was just one of many sacrifices she made for him over the years.

Evelyn poured her heart and soul into raising her only child. She imparted so many lasting lessons and dreams to her "miracle baby". She always told him to put the Lord first and that her only dream was to live long enough to see him take care of his family. She also told him that "Can't die" and if she could pick cotton and still read 100 books in the summer as a child, he could excel in all of his schoolwork. She read poetry to him by Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and others. She told him his dreams did not have to be deferred. He went on to graduate from Yale University and then Cornell University Law School vowing to never dishonor his mother's many sacrifices for him. Her granddaughters are his proudest accomplishment.

Evelyn was a devout follower of Christ. She was baptized by the late Reverend R. L. Freeman, a notable figure in the civil rights struggle in Americus, at the historic Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church founded in 1856. She then joined Happy Home Baptist Church in Allendale, SC, which was founded shortly after the Civil War. Much later in life, she became a member of Restoration Community Ministries of Fayetteville, GA, where she was considered one of the "Mothers" of the church.

Evelyn taught in the Allendale County, SC school system for approximately 30 years as a beloved kindergarten and pre-school teacher and administrator. She had a preternatural ability to encourage those in her circle to be the best version of themselves, especially her students. She was an expert at listening to understand and encouraging greatness. The tributes to her from former students since her passing have been overwhelming. She was the first face of education for so many children. When her young students saw her face, they saw love. They learned their colors, their numbers, how to tie their shoes, how to be the line leader, and how to treat everyone with respect. In her final years, she was often overheard "teaching" students in her sleep.

Evelyn was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She leaves behind to cherish and be blessed by her precious memory: a devoted son, David "Marc" (Letta) Sneed; two beautiful, smart granddaughters, Catherine Sneed and Meredith Sneed; her incredible siblings: Marilyn Smith, Gwendolyn Smith, Ella Gloria Smith-McGary, Andrea Smith, Eddie (Linda) Smith, Jr., Sheryl Stiles, Barry (Elaine) Smith, Sr. and special sister, Dora Stinson; her nieces and nephews: Lakeitha (Bobby) Geiger, Tokiwa Smith, Urian (Bernita) Walters, Kai Smith, Kahli Smith, Lanai Smith, Camryn Smith, and Barry Smith, Jr.; special cousins: Yolonda (Alex) Jordan, Sonia Galloway and Ericka Paige; and a host of other relatives and friends.