



## Laura Ann Royster-Smith

August 1, 1921 - August 27, 2015

Laura Ann Royster- Smith

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Born in Selma, Alabama to Alberta and Percy Craig. Laura accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior when she was a young girl. After moving to Indiana, she married Clarence B. Royster in 1941. This union had two children Clarence B. Royster Jr and Sandra E. Kelly. Clarence Sr. died in 1968. She married Melbourne P. Smith in 1987. At age 94, Laura Royster-Smith peacefully went home to be with the Lord in Lansing, Michigan.

Laura was a lifelong homemaker who was famous for her pound cake that no one else could duplicate. She was an expert crocheter and knitter and loved to teach these skills to others. Laura's faith was evident to all. Laura always maintained an active church membership where ever she lived. Her home was always open to people in need. She was an evangelist who led many to Christ through her exemplary living and sharing from the Word of God. Never fearful of modern technology, Laura enjoyed maintaining ties with friends around the country on her cell phone and working on her iPad. She loved Facebook, especially for sending and receiving pictures.

Laura was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Albert Webb and Cornelius Craig and grandchildren. Sean McGwin and Sharmel T. Edwards. Laura leaves to cherish her memory, her sister, Bessie Dobbins; daughter Sandra(Kevin Kelly) and son Clarence (Mozella) Royster Jr; grandchildren, Rosemary D. Edwards, Tanya A. Royster, Clarence B.(Sammerta) Royster III,

Laura A. Royster and April M. Puga; great grandchildren Cameron Goorahoo, Kourtney Royster, Skylar Keller, Madison Keller, Kristah Royster, Leonardo Puga, Rebecca Anderson, Sarah Anderson and Clarence B. Royster IV, and a host of relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Family Gospel Chapel  
320 Division Street  
Bangor, MI

## Service

SEP 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Family Gospel Chapel  
320 Division Street  
Bangor, MI

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ My name is Michael Hunter. I live out in northern California.. In my early 20's , I found myself in East Chicago, Indiana, being your basic "blue eyed soul brother". It is one of my life's accomplishments of which I am the most proud. I am even more proud of my friendship with Clarence Royster Jr. He was a man among men, and way more braver , during the Civil Rights struggle, than I was prepared to be.!

Clarence and I ran together for a couple of years in the mid sixties. What can I say?

Clarence's parents let me stay in their home , in one of those high rise "projects", in East Chicago, I found Laura and her husband, Clarence, to be gracious hosts, though I doubt if they didn't get just a little static from the neighbors for having some white kid in the building, :)

I was fortunate enough to be hanging around when Clarence's sister, Sandra, came home from England for a family visit. It was fun to see her in Clarence and Clarence in her. Their parents did a job to be proud of with those two kids, and it couldn't have been easy. :)

My wife and I live in a ranch style home in the middle of a 12 acre walnut orchard. Beyond the orchard are vineyards and then the mountains. It is a very rural area. I often have more than one occasion to sit out on the back deck in the afternoon and sip a glass (or two) of wine and think about my life's adventures. Clarence comes up more often than not!

I would love to tell the family of Clarence's bravery. It puts me to shame to this day!

I have no idea if Clarence is still alive today, though the obituary would suggest that he is. I found this obituary on line while searching for his whereabouts. I recognized the names immediately, which is no small achievement, at my age. :)

*Clarence, if you are still out there, I married the Native American lady. We lasted about ten years and we have a daughter and a son. They are reservation rats, but highly successful rats. Michael (what a surprise) is the Tribal Chairman and a big dog in the Native American Gaming industry. Melinda runs the tribal health and senior citizen departments for the tribe. I have remarried, about 29 years ago, and my wife and I share the family gatherings with my ex and our children. The tribe seems to think I am still cool and I always feel welcome.*

*Life has been exciting, but I wouldn't have it any other way.*

*Hope to here from you, Clarence, or your Kids. Thrilled to see that there is a Clarence Royster III. That was at the top of your bucket list, even as a young man!*

*Remember Roy Head and "treat Her Like A Lady"? I'll never forget that night. It took me a while to finally understand what went on that night. It was special!*

*Best Regards!Michael*

*Michael*

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**Michael Hunter** - May 13, 2016 at 05:55 PM

LR

*Pease contact me I am Clarence's daughter.  
Laura*

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**Laura Royster** - May 06, 2018 at 02:44 PM

BS

“ *Bonnie Smith lit a candle in memory of Laura Ann Royster-Smith*



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**Bonnie Smith** - September 29, 2015 at 04:10 PM

BS

*Laura was the best neighbor I could have ask for. She would have my dinner waiting a lot of days as I came home from work, and she would go to church and shopping with me. I remember one night we went to Berrien Springs to a church service , she danced with the aisles with the saints. Precious Lady of God.*

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**Bonnie Smith** - September 29, 2015 at 04:14 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Laura Ann Royster-Smith.*



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September 03, 2015 at 03:34 PM

 Erika  
Egbon

“ UNITED IN CHRIST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, Inc.  
5782 Hwy 371, Heflin, La. 71039

#### CONDOLENCE

*On behalf of our Pastor, Geraldine Stewart and the parishioners of United In Christ Pentecostal Church, Inc. We resolve and humbly submit to the will of God in the loss of your loved one. We extend to the family of the late Laura Ann Royster-Smith our sincerest heartfelt expression of sympathy. It is in times like these we reevaluate our connection to God and let his love give us strength. He is sustaining you this very moment as you walk through this valley.*

*Rest in his comforting arms, find solace in his bosom, and hold to his sustainable hand. Always remember, death leaves a heartache that only God can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. Those we love never die, they just depart before we do. In their departure they leave us a memory which becomes a treasure we will forever hold in our hearts. May the light and love of Christ continue to illuminate your family in the coming days ahead. You are continuously in our prayers.*

*Respectfully submitted  
Pastor Geraldine Stewart  
United In Christ Pentecostal Church, Inc.*

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Erika Egbon - September 03, 2015 at 03:22 PM

LR

“ *Lena and Bea Royster purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Laura Ann Royster-Smith.*



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**Lena and Bea Royster** - September 03, 2015 at 01:27 AM

GS

“ *I will always remember my Aunt Laura for the gentle spirit she had, and the warmth of her smile. I remember her visiting me in Ringgold, Louisiana after my husband died. She and her husband "Red" stayed with me about a week, and we enjoyed sitting around the wall heater peeling and eating sweet potatoes. I treasure these moments and will forever embrace them in my heart. She left a legacy of family history which I will always remember. Being a pastor of a church, I realize the greatest legacy we can leave our love ones is a legacy of "LOVE", love of God and love of family. God blessed her to be with us for 94 years, and for this I am grateful. I say to my family allow her to continue to live through us, and let us leave to our children what she has left to us. In doing so, our family will always live for generations to come. She has not left us, she has only gone on before us. The bible tells us, blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints, and to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.*

*Pastor Geraldine Stewart*

*United In Christ Pentecostal Church, Inc*

*Heflin, La. 71039*

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**Geraldine Stewart** - September 02, 2015 at 10:45 AM