



## Diane Victoria Smith

February 22, 1953 - May 21, 2023

Services were held at Eternal Life Christian Center, 322 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, on Friday, June 9, 2023.

It is with heavy hearts that we remember and celebrate the life of Diane Smith, a remarkable woman whose presence touched the lives of many. Born on February 22, 1953, in New Brunswick to the late Augustus Smith Sr. and Elma Smith, Diane was called home by God on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at NY Presbyterian Medical Center, following complications following a kidney transplant.

Diane possessed a unique ability to warm the hearts of all those who knew her, earning her several endearing nicknames. Among family and friends, she was affectionately known as Diane, Di, or Smitty. Her grandchildren lovingly called her YaYa, while her nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends knew her as Aunt D, Aunt Di, and Aunt Diane.

Diane graduated from Franklin High School, followed by her graduation from Seton Hall University. Shortly after, she found her forever home in Franklin Township, where she spent most of her life while finding solace and spiritual nourishment at Eternal Life Christian Center.

In her professional life, Diane first dedicated herself to social work in New

Jersey. She later embarked on a career at Bell Labs and AT&T, which took her on numerous journeys across the globe. At the age of 27, while still employed with AT&T, Diane received the diagnosis of Lupus Erythematosus. Despite the challenges it posed, she refused to let her illness define her life. Not only did she return to work, but she also obtained her master's degree from Steven's Institute of Technology in 2002, all while holding a high-level management position with Lucent Technologies.

Diane's resilience and determination were evident in her personal life as well. She ensured her son received an education at St. Peter's Catholic School, where he, too, went on to graduate from Seton Hall University. Additionally, she selflessly became the guardian of her late brother's daughter, Arisa, when he tragically succumbed to cancer in 1985. Diane's love and devotion guided Arisa through life, nurturing her as if she were her own.

Diane's unwavering spirit knew no bounds. Whether she was traveling the world, tending to her beloved garden, or simply enjoying the company of new and lifelong friends in the gazebo, she warmly welcomed and embraced all who entered her life. Her love and strength will forever be missed, leaving an irreplaceable void in our hearts.

Diane was preceded in death by her mother, Elma Smith; father, Augustus (Bill) Smith; brothers Carter Smith, Augustus Smith Jr., and Moses Harris; and sister Macion Kristina Young.

She is survived by her loving family: her son Stephen Cooper II; his wife Jill; and her two cherished grandchildren, Stephen Cooper III and Ryleigh Cooper. Diane is also survived by her niece and co-pilot, Arisa Smith, along with her two sisters, Jessie McDaniel of Franklin Township, and Joyce McDaniel-Dileo of Florida; and her lifetime companion Greg Stukes. Additionally, she leaves behind a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who were

blessed to have shared in her life's journey.

As a tribute to Diane, we kindly ask that you wear a vibrant pop of color and, if you have one, a church hat. In our collective grief, we find solace in the beautiful memories we shared with Diane, forever treasuring the love and light she brought into our lives. May her soul find eternal peace, and may her spirit continue to inspire.

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Live Streaming Service Friday, June 9, 2023, at 11:00am

<https://fieldhousetv.com/diane-smith>

# Cemetery Details

## Clover Leaf Memorial Park

Route 1 South & Route 35  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 9. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Eternal Life Christian Center  
322 Franklin Blvd.  
Somerset, NJ 08873

## Funeral Service

JUN 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Eternal Life Christian Center  
322 Franklin Blvd.  
Somerset, NJ 08873

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ Aunt Wareline and Uncle Bob purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.



Aunt Wareline and Uncle Bob - June 10, 2023 at 01:36 PM

AB

“ Aunt Wareline and Uncle Bob purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.



Aunt Wareline and Uncle Bob - June 10, 2023 at 01:24 PM

SG

“ Sherry, Tiffany and Garrett purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.



Sherry, Tiffany and Garrett - June 08, 2023 at 07:59 PM



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

June 08, 2023 at 06:52 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.*



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June 07, 2023 at 11:06 PM



“ *Bountiful Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.*



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June 07, 2023 at 03:47 PM



“ *Joyce&Rick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Victoria Smith.*

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**Joyce&Rick** - June 06, 2023 at 09:07 PM



“ *Joyce&Rick purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.*



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**Joyce&Rick** - June 06, 2023 at 09:07 PM

JH

“ Jeanette & the McDaniel Family, Houston purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.



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**Jeanette & the McDaniel Family, Houston** - June 06, 2023 at 03:04 PM

LF

“ Love, Aunt Mary and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Diane Victoria Smith.



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**Love, Aunt Mary and family** - June 06, 2023 at 12:56 PM

BW

“ On the other side there will be her Dad her Mother her two Brothers and Carter's beautiful daughter her niece

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**Belender Wells** - June 02, 2023 at 12:26 AM

BW

“ A true Warrior in Faith and life my Beloved cousin admired by me all my life she will always be with me in spirit and that she mentor me in life and business family she held dearly Steven you made your Mother so proud we love you Cousin Belender and Maurice Aunt Wareline

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**Belender Wells** - June 01, 2023 at 10:53 PM