



Zelda Mae Newell Gray Smith

July 31, 1926 - August 8, 2021

Zelda Mae Newell Gray Smith, 95, of Fife Lake, passed away Sunday, August 8, 2021. On July 31, 1926, she was born in Fife Lake, Michigan to her parents, the late Edgar and Josephine (Bigham) Newell. Zelda's mother died when she was eleven months old so Josephine's sister, Ethel and her husband Francis Crevier, volunteered to raise and nurture her alongside their own three children. The Newell siblings were always a part of her life as well as the Crevier siblings. Zelda married Orrin O. Gray on February 12, 1944. Two children were born of that union, Reatha and Thomas. On February 14, 1983 Zelda was united in marriage to George D. Smith until his death in 2014. After Zelda retired as Director of Housekeeping at Mercy Hospital in Grayling, she and George enjoyed traveling the United States for many years escaping the Michigan winters. Summers were spent at their home nestled between two lakes in Fife Lake. Zelda will be lovingly remembered by her two children, Reatha (Max) Cochran and Thomas (Julia) Gray; four granddaughters: Reye Cochran Kenney, Jodi (Kevin) Thayer, Kristen (Lance) Scheidel, and Tawni (Brandon) Deike; five great-grandchildren: Tanner, Taylor, Jackie, Laina and Evalinn. Also surviving are the Smith relatives, extended families, many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Zelda was preceded in death by her husbands and seven Newell siblings: Ida Papendick, Merle Jepsen, Helen Zalsman, Inez Wells, Edgar Newell, Vera Newell and Ruth Ann John, and their spouses, as well as her Crevier siblings: Mancel Crevier, Donald Crevier, and Dorothy Weaver, and their spouses. The funeral service will take place Friday,

August 13, 2021 at 2:00 pm at Kalkaska Funeral Home. The family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 pm until the time of service. The family would like you to consider a donation to the American Heart Association. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

St. Aloysius Catholic Cemetery

403 Merritt St.
Fife Lake, MI 49633

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Funeral Service

AUG 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

DN

“ *DEBORAH NEWELL lit a candle in memory of Zelda Mae Newell Gray Smith*



DEBORAH NEWELL - August 13, 2021 at 10:29 AM

RW

“ *Zelda was one sweet lady, always had a smile and laugh, always caring, and doing for others, And one GREAT cook, and loved her tea pots. And really loved her kids, and grand the grand kids were all very special. She will be missed. Thanks for sharing your mom with us. Tom Brooks, Ruth Westgate and family.*

Ruth Westgate - August 12, 2021 at 08:32 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Zelda Mae Newell Gray Smith.*



August 10, 2021 at 11:19 AM