



## Mrs. Ruth Epperson Sligh

June 26, 1922 - June 21, 2015

Ruth Epperson Sligh, 92, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and friends on Sunday, June 21, 2015 at Wood Presbyterian Home in Sweetwater, TN. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 27, 2015 at the Brown-Pennington-Atkins Chapel. The Rev. Charles Roberts will officiate and the burial will be in Magnolia Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Ruth was born in Moline, IL on June 26, 1922 to Charles and Lida Montgomery Epperson.

Surviving her are her three children, Susanne (John) Mortimer of Sweetwater, TN, Howard Smith of Troy, SC and Ken (Jean) Smith of Due West, SC; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her oldest son, Earl D. Smith Jr., and her sister, Marion Brumley.

Ruth married Earl Dwayne Smith, "Smitty" in 1942 in Long Beach, CA. After WWII, Ruth and Smitty took a trip up the Al-Can Highway to Alaska with their two young children. They both fell in love with the Alaska wilderness and Smitty took a job managing hotels along the Alaska Railroad. Eight years, many adventures and two more children later, Ruth and Smitty moved back to the states to a small farm in Lewistown, IL. Ruth loved life on the farm and lived there until the children were grown.

Ruth lost her husband, Smitty in 1973 after a motorcycle accident claimed his life. She remained on the farm for several years, continuing her education and her love of painting. She eventually decided to move to Hartsville, SC to be closer to her children and two young grandchildren. Not long after moving to

Hartsville, Ruth, always the avid outdoorsman, began putting feelers out for someone to show her the good fishing spots in the area. Through this process, she was introduced to Cecil Sligh, a Hartsville native and incredibly kind, gentle man. The two shared some fishing trips and their relationship quickly developed into something more. Ruth and Cecil married in 1984 and spent many years together, enjoying travel and adventures. During this time, Ruth and Cecil were active members at First Baptist Church in Hartsville, SC and Ruth was also an active member of the D.A.R.

These were the happiest years of Ruth's life and Cecil was a wonderful husband. He passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease in 2012 and Ruth made the difficult decision to sell her beloved home in Hartsville and move to Sweetwater, TN to be near her daughter and grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations to "Smile Train" ([smiletrain.org](http://smiletrain.org)) are encouraged. This is an international children's charity that provides free cleft palate and lip surgery to children in 87 developing countries. Ruth supported this charity for years and it was very dear to her heart.

# Cemetery Details

## Magnolia Cemetery

140 South Cedar Lane  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
(843) 383-3004

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home  
306 W. Home Ave.  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
(843) 332-6531  
info@bpafuneralhome.com  
<http://www.bpafuneralhome.com>

## Service

JUN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home Chapel  
306 W Home Ave  
Hartsville, SC

# Tribute Wall

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“ So sorry to read of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family.



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**Rebecca Skinner (Terry)** - June 30, 2015 at 05:32 AM

CB

“ Dear Susanne and family,  
I was sorry to hear about Aunt Ruth, but am glad you and Julianne were able to be with her. I will always remember that summer on Ruth and Earl's farm, picking corn, and Uncle Earl teaching me to mow with the tractor. They were so kind to me. i will always recall watching the meteor shower with cousin Earl and actually seeing a fireball, not a mere meteor and the fresh fried corn we had there and feeding the animals. I do believe she s a Christian and is now in His presence with Gaga and all the others. Love, Your Cousin,  
Cathie

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**Cathie Barriere** - June 27, 2015 at 12:07 PM

CF

“ Dear Susanne and family: We were so sorry to hear about Aunt Ruth. One of my happiest memories is visiting your parents farm in Illinois, when my children were small. Aunt Ruth made us feel so welcome. She cooked a wonderful meal, and taught me how to cook fresh yellow squash. It was the first time I ever ate yellow squash, and I loved it- I cook it that way to this day. Janine and Ronnie had such a wonderful time on that visit.  
It inspired us to move to a farm, and we did. Love, Connie, George and family

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**Connie Fisher** - June 27, 2015 at 08:57 AM

CM

“*Susanne and family, wish we could be there today to take part in Ruth's celebration! We all loved her so and will be celebrating with you in our prayers as you go through this difficult time.*”  
*Larry, Carol, and Family*

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**Carol McCulloch** - June 27, 2015 at 07:56 AM

BW

“*Suzanne, John and family, we're so very sorry to hear about Ruth. She was such a sweet, caring person. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you all, Barbara and Jack Windham*”

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**Barbara Windham** - June 23, 2015 at 09:15 PM

DT

“*Diane And George Tierney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Epperson Sligh*”



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**Diane and George Tierney** - June 23, 2015 at 01:20 PM

DT

“*Suzanne, John and family, We are so sad to hear about your Mom. I remember the first time I met her on the farm in Illinois and how kind she was to us always and all the times after that. She had a beautiful smile and faith and will be missed ! Our thoughts and prayers are with you!*  
*Love.*  
*Diane and George*”

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**Diane and George Tierney** - June 23, 2015 at 01:18 PM

RW

“ *Rebecca Wadsworth Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Epperson Sligh*



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**Rebecca Wadsworth Walker** - June 23, 2015 at 07:31 AM

LT

“ *So sorry to hear about Mrs. Ruth she was a special person I always enjoyed doing her taxes when she lived in Hartsville she was so easy to work with . My prayers will be with the family.*



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**Linda Tolson** - June 21, 2015 at 06:24 PM