



## Bessie L. Smith

November 17, 1944 - November 3, 2022

Bessie L. Smith, 77, entered her heavenly home with family at her side on Thursday, November 3, 2022. She was born November 17, 1944, in Virginia, Illinois. Bessie was the daughter of the late Ira Dean and Sadie C. (DeGroot) Norris.

Bessie was married to Bennie Smith on August 19, 1960, in Rushville, Illinois. Bennie preceded her in death on January 4, 2021, after celebrating 60 years of marriage. Bennie and Bessie moved to the Lebanon area and called it their home since 1972.

Bessie was a homemaker and loved gardening and flowers, especially sunflowers. She planted and grew all types of flowers, vegetables, and fruit trees. She canned and preserved and blessed others with each bountiful harvest.

Bessie believed and lived a strong Christian faith. She and Bennie had attended and been a member of Lebanon Rock Church for forty years. Throughout the years, she faithfully served in capacities as the Missions Director, Community Thanksgiving Dinner Coordinator and Food Pantry Administrator. She has also served and supported multiple other ministries. Due to the pandemic and health concerns, Bessie recently attended Fairview Congregational Christian Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Pamela Smith of Lebanon, Michelle Smith of Lebanon, and Lisa Adams of Walkerton, Indiana; four grandsons; a sister, Doris Brant of Danville, Illinois; half sisters, Betty Hoover and Leah Dick, both residing in Iowa.

Private Family Services will be held at Myers Mortuary in Lebanon, Indiana. Bessie will be laid to rest next to Bennie at Brown's Wonder Cemetery in Lebanon, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that Bibles be donated in memory of Bessie at [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org). Cards of loving thoughts and prayers are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

# Cemetery Details

## **Browns Wonder Cemetery**

Lebanon, IN 46052

# Tribute Wall



“ I miss you Mammaw, Mom found a letter you wrote. And I called you in the middle of writing it.

Drew Adams - November 08, 2024 at 07:40 PM



“ It never gets easier as the days go by, I miss Mammaw & Pappaw everyday. I will always remember and cherish the time we had together and long for that great reunion in heaven more as time goes on. I'm getting homesick for Heaven and home. Praying for my family and my own heart that breaks at the thought of missing you both.

Drew Adams - January 31, 2023 at 09:08 AM



“ Bessie L. Smith

November 27, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ So sorry for your loss of Bess, your whole family was a great neighbor and friends to have growing up. RIP pretty lady.. Bennie was patiently waiting on her arrival in heaven.

Dan Eck and Family

dan eck - November 08, 2022 at 05:00 PM



“ Love you Momma Bessie!!

Jan Raderstorf - November 08, 2022 at 03:54 PM

 Drew  
Adams

“ *Mammaw was always my favorite person. I hold our memories dear, and near to my heart. While my heart breaks that she isn't here with us, I know she is with Pappaw. It will be like only minutes have passed, holding his hand before the throne of God. I pray for my family, near and far, for God to comfort, keep and save those who are lost. Though life distracts us and keeps us focused on current struggles, and time slips by, we know it is never intentional to lose track of time, of family and heart, love overcomes time and distance. We know time and mile past, prayers spoken in the middle of life's broken road holds a heavenly value unseen. Be a light in your world, as Mammaw was to so many people whose paths she crossed. Every time we went to town together, everywhere we went people were always coming to talk with Mammaw. She would encourage and pray for people everywhere she went. God bless my family.*

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**Drew Adams** - November 07, 2022 at 06:53 PM

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“ *She was a gracious and giving person. What a blessing she and Bennie were. We lost some really precious people.  
Love and prayers.  
Bill and Sue West and family*

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**Sue west** - November 07, 2022 at 06:00 PM