

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
*Blanche Marie Smith*

*Sunrise*  
*July 17, 1925*

*Sunset*  
*December 19, 2021*



*Service*  
*Tuesday, January 4, 2022 • 11:00 a.m.*

**ROY L. GILMORE'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
191-02 Linden Blvd. • St. Albans, New York 11412  
*Minister Linda Carol Champion, Officiating*

# *Order of Service*

Prelude

Gathering..... Family and Friends

Welcome & Greeting ..... Terryl Champion

Scripture Reading

23 Psalm..... Paula Johnson

Solo ..... “His Eyes Are on the Sparrow” - Minister Linda Champion

Prayer of Comfort ..... Minister Linda Champion

Obituary Reading ..... Neysa Coleman

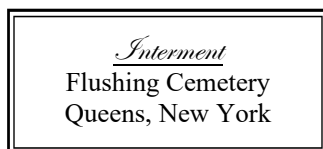
Reflections, Remembering Blanche

Solo ..... Minister Linda Champion

Eulogy ..... Minister Linda Champion

Committal ..... Minister Linda Champion

Final Viewing



## Obituary

**Blanche Marie Smith** was born on July 17th, 1925 in Charleston, West Virginia to the late James Alexander Smith and Velma Loretta Thornton Smith. Her older sister, Odell Smith and younger brother Archibald Smith preceded her in death.

She was raised in Selma, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia. Blanche worked hard to receive an education to make a better life for her and her family. She attended Spellman College in Atlanta Georgia where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree with a Major in Home Economics.

Blanche loved teaching others. It was her dream to become a teacher. In 1951 she moved to Harlem, New York and was employed at Gold Water Memorial Hospital in New York City as Head Dietician from 1951- 1954. She loved making food plans for patients with all different types of illnesses. Blanche also found the time to attend New York University where she received a Master's Degree in Home Economics and Nutrition in 1953.

In 1954 Blanche accomplished her dream and was hired as a teacher with the New York City Board of Education. She taught Home Economics in several Junior High Schools. She taught in JHS 10 in Queens from 1954-1956, P 3 in the Bronx from 1956- 1959 and JHS 125 in Queens from 1960- 1982. She adored her students and was amazed how many students were eager to learn cooking and sewing. She volunteered and taught several of her students on weekends in her home how to make their own clothing. Blanche also taught in a Voluntary after School Program at Bryant High School Youth and Adult Center in Queens from 1966-1970.

In the 1960s Blanche worked hard to save money to purchase her own home. In 1964 achieved that goal, she left Harlem and moved into her home in Queens New York. She had no furniture when she moved in. For several months she slept on the floor until she managed to buy furniture. Blanche later shared her home with her mother where she provided and cared for her until her death in 1981. She never married or had any children of her own but she acted as second mother to many of her nieces and nephews. In 1971 she opened her home to her younger sister Minnie who she affectionately called "Teddy" after her husband passed away suddenly leaving her widowed with 5 children. She provided a helping hand raising her nieces and nephews for 3 years until her sister was able to purchase her own home in 1974. She taught her nieces and nephews how to cook, clean and sew. Blanche was strict and kept everyone inline but she loved them all like her own.

She retired as a teacher from the New York City Board of Education in 1982 after 28 years of service. In 1982 Blanche was diagnosed with breast cancer. She credited her doctor with saving her life by removing cancerous lumps from her breast. He encouraged her while she underwent several bouts of chemotherapy that prevented the spread of cancer. She was extremely strong, drove herself to all her chemo appointments. Blanche was proud that she has been a breast cancer survivor for 39 years.

Blanche loved cooking for her friends and family. She enjoyed hosting dinner parties for her longtime companion of over 60 years Rupert Mitchell. Everyone loved her cooking. Her favorite holidays were Thanksgiving and Christmas; she went over and beyond to make everyone happy with her mastery of the culinary arts. Blanche also hosted the best barbecues every 4th of July.

Blanche leaves behind her youngest sister Minnie V, Champion, nephews Adrain Smith, Dana B. Champion, Terryl Champion, nieces Denise Smith, Neysa Coleman, Linda Champion, Paula Johnson, Alysena Brierre and a host of Great Nieces and Nephews.

# *Until We Meet Again*

*We think about you always,  
We talk about you still,  
You have never been forgotten,  
And you never will.  
We hold you close  
within our hearts,  
And there you will remain,  
To walk and guide us  
through our lives,  
Until we meet again*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation  
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown  
to their family during this hour of bereavement.*

*May God Bless and Keep You!*

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Professional Services Provided By:

*Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.*



Angela Gilmore-Manning, President

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