



Gerda B Smith

October 31, 1925 - May 18, 2015

Fred and Gerda Smith started their life together in Germany in 1958. They met at Sembach Air Base, (near Ramstein/Landstuhl AF Base) where Gerda worked at the Base Exchange. After one year of investigation and a lot of paperwork, they were married in March 1959 by the Buergermeister (Mayor). However, they needed an interpreter because neither could speak the others language! Gerda quickly learned English and Fred is still working on his German...

One of Gerda's favorite TRUE stories: She has a large china bowl that was used during the war for the American soldiers to soak their tired, sore feet. Today she still uses that bowl but now the Americans are served food in it!

The Smith's arrived in the U.S. in April 1961. Fred was stationed at Lincoln Air Force Base in Nebraska at the time. From Lincoln they were transferred to Rome Air Force Base in New York State and within two years Fred was transferred to Thailand during the Vietnam War. Gerda remained behind in Rome, N.Y.; it was a difficult year for the both of them. Fred retired from the Air Force in August of '68 and they immediately headed to Orlando, seeking a better life together again.

Fred worked as a factory representative for auto trim supplies, covering the whole state of Florida and southern Georgia. Gerda became a Realtor - oh, the

good old days... when a 5 bedroom, 3 bath house on a golf course sold for \$50,000! Can you imagine???

The Smith's purchased their second home: Lot 43,206 Cattail Ct., where they moved on May 1, 1980 and have lived happily since, enjoying retired life surrounded by good neighbors (No, this is not a prejudiced statement colored by the fact that the author lives next door to them!).

Gerda's hobbies include decorating, gardening, and home renovations. Fred's include the computer and photography. They both enjoy socializing at the German/American Club and Cosmopolitan Club...(and Gerda loves kicking up her heels at the LHGHA festivities too!).

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

A Community Funeral Home & Sunset Cremations
910 W. Michigan Street
Orlando, FL 32805
(407) 841-4424
<https://www.acommunityfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

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910 W. Michigan Street
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Tribute Wall

DB

“ Dear Fred,
first of all, let me express my sincere condolences to you, as well as from my wife Regina and my children Isabel and Florian.
Some weeks ago, we had a telephone call with Lorchen, who told us from the death of her sister Gerda, but unfortunately we never received the internet adress of your community funeral home. At last yesterday, friends of Lorchen (Angelika & Dieter Nussbickel) called here and gave us the details. So please apologise the delay. In former times, when Gerda an you visited Germany, you always spent an afternoon with my parents (Gerda´s uncle Alfred and aunt Aenne) in Ludwigshafen an Regina and I too, we had the opportunity to join those funny rounds with coffee and cakes. Gerda looked very American with her blond hair, her rouged face and lips and her viewy eyeglasses. But when she mixed up English with our German dialect, we knew that she had ever stayed the aerlier Palatine girl in a way.
With her cheerful, active and bright nature, she gave us a good example, how you can get older in an optimistic and positive way. Anyway it seemed to us, as if she stayed forever young.
I always remember, when in 1979 I had the chance to visit you in your house in Orlando with the same radio-music in every room (at that time we didn´t know such facilities yet in Germany). We went to Disney-Land together and you, Fred, brought me to Daytona at the end.

Fred, we feel so much sorrow with you and we hope that onew day after the mourning time, you can find back your love for life with all the good memories you share with Gerda

Sincerely yours
Dieter
(Dieter Bierle,
Ruthenweg 16,
67161 Goenheim, Germany)
Tel: 0049 63 22-6 82 94
mailto:dieter.bierle@gmx.de)

Dieter Bierle - June 20, 2015 at 10:01 AM

AN

“ Dear Fred,

After talking to you on the phone I felt encouraged to share my memories of Gerda on the tribute wall. That is something we don't have here in Germany, and I imagine Gerda would say : “Just wait for some time and you will have tribute walls in Germany ,too” Back in the 1940s Gerda was my late mother's -Wilma's- best friend. My mother would often tell us about their trips to Obermoschel to visit Gerda's wonderful grandma, which were highlights in those difficult times.

I just dimly remember Gerda in the 1950s as a beautiful, elegant lady, and I really got to know her when she regularly came back to Germany on holiday from the 1970s on. She always told us that meeting you was her piece of luck , the point of time when her life really began. She found happiness with you and she found her country – the United States of America..

In 1978 when I stayed in your house in Florida with Dieter we were overwhelmed by the affectionate welcome both of you gave us. Gerda immediately decided to help two young backpackers (we had been travelling in Mexico for some weeks) on the threshold of working life .Her advice : “1. Get decent outfits ,2.Get credit cards,3. Get married “. On the way back to Germany Dieter proposed to me ,and we have been married for 34 years now. That was Gerda. Gerda always stayed young at heart. When we met or talked on the phone, we discussed everything from politics to family news or the latest fashion. And I never had the feeling that she was one day older than me.

Her warm-heartedness and energy , her courage ,her openness and optimism will always be my inspiration.

Sending you lots of love, Angelika

Angelika Nussbickel - May 24, 2015 at 05:44 AM

CG

“ *Cosmo Friends - Valerie and Jim Gray purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gerda B Smith.*



Cosmo Friends - Valerie and Jim Gray - May 20, 2015 at 07:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerda B Smith.*



May 20, 2015 at 06:21 PM

LD

“ *Lorchen , Andrea ,Angelika and Dieter purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Gerda B Smith.*



Lorchen , Andrea ,Angelika and Dieter - May 20, 2015 at 02:20 PM

AS

“ *The Cosmopolitans of Florida (A Club for Foreign Born Women) send you their deepest condolences and sympathy, Fred. She was our beloved member for many years and we will miss seeing her walk into a meeting dressed like a movie star, always smiling. She was beautiful and smart and she kept us in stitches with her funny sense of humor. She could deliver an outrageous pun with the most serious expression, making us laugh so hard we could hardly breathe. As a fellow German I loved sitting at the same table with her just to hear her opinion on everything from A to Z. She was loved by all and we will miss her.*
Agnes Spalding, past President of Cosmo.

Agnes Spalding - May 20, 2015 at 11:47 AM

FS

Thank you very much, for the heart warming comments. Gerda loved everyone at the Cosmopolitan Club. She was so sorry that she could not attend all the meetings the last 2 1/2 years of her life, due to her illness. Fred Gene Smith

Fred G. Smith - June 07, 2015 at 03:56 PM

GM

“ *Dear Fred,*

I am very sad and I feel with you. Gerda was a part of my childhood and my youth and I will miss her very much. My thoughts are with you and I will never forget her.

Gretel and family

Gretel May - May 20, 2015 at 11:31 AM

DC

“ *My Dear Fred, I just learned of Gerda's passing and am devastated by the news. My heart breaks thinking of how difficult this time this is for you. I wish I were there to give you a big hug and help in some way! I think of Gerda often when I'm out pulling weeds and working in my flower beds. Although 25 years her junior, she always put me to shame when I lived beside you . . . she worked rings around me! I always admired her young heart and zest for life! I loved reading that story about her china and the American soldiers; that was my favorite story she would tell. I love you Fred and miss you bunches. Please take care of yourself . . . I'll come visit when I make it back to Orlando. Love, Darla*



Darla Caswell - May 19, 2015 at 07:05 PM

DZ

“ *Fred, You are in our thoughts and prayers. You have been our neighbors for over 30 years. We miss seeing Gerda out working in the yard with her hat and her cigarette! She was so proud of her house and all of her trees. I remember when you added the back room. She invited us in to see it and then proceeded to show us her hat collection. She made the Best German Potato Salad ever! We all loved Gerda so much and will miss her dearly.*

The Zuefles

Donna Zuefle - May 19, 2015 at 06:08 PM

FC

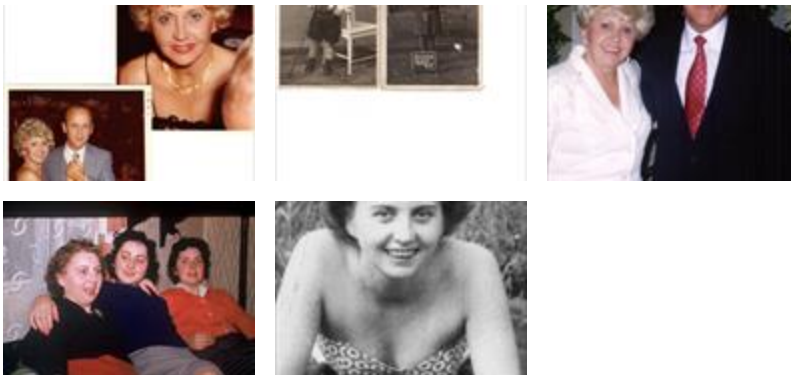
“ Fred: There is nothing that one can do or say to help you regain your attitude, sorrow, or feelings which comes at the immediate life style change when you loose a life-time loved partner. You have your memories which can be grateful to rely on . I would be remiss if I didn't mention my all time memory of the most patriotic citizen I know. She never missed a patriotic occurance and lived with and enhanced being a proud American citizen. She expended every minute acknowledging her thanks and choice recognition of what her new country provided. We could publish a book of the instances which she shared with us. **OUR BEST WISHES TO YOU FRED.** We are here if you need us and we can help.
FRANK and CHRISTEL LEVANDUSKI



Frank & Christel - May 19, 2015 at 03:17 PM



“ 26 files added to the album Memories Album



A Community Funeral Home & Sunset Cremations - May 19, 2015 at 11:00 AM