



Jan Grimsley Smithey

September 16, 1945 - March 22, 2024

Jan Grimsley Smithey 78, of Leesburg, passed away March 22nd, 2024 with her family by her side. Jan was born in Americus, Georgia, September 16, 1945, to the late Roy and Lydia Sheppard Grimsley. In 1958, she moved with her parents from Cuthbert, Georgia to Leesburg. She graduated from Leesburg High School in 1963 and attended the University of Florida. While at UF, Jan was a member of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and Sweetheart of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. In 1967, she earned her BAE degree from UF and in 1974, her MAE degree. She worked in education for 31 years as a high school and middle school teacher, gifted teacher and guidance counselor. Twenty-four of those years were with the Sumter County School System where in 1994 she was chosen the Sumter County Schools Teacher of the Year and in 1998 represented Sumter County as the Recipient of the Distinguished Educator's Award from the University of Florida. Jan was always appreciative of the outstanding Sumter County administrators, teachers and students with whom she worked. Jan was active in planning LHS Class of 63' reunions and loved her friends, reading, photography, beach trips, music, boating and traveling.

In retirement, she and her husband enjoyed road trips to National Parks, cruises and tours of Europe and Asia. They were avid Gator fans and for many years bought football season tickets, and along with grandsons Joshua and Caleb traveled to Gainesville to cheer for the Gators and tailgate with

Gator friends. She was a long-time member of Morrison Memorial Methodist Church.

Jan was blessed to have been married for 47 years to her beloved husband, Bob "Smitty" Smithey who was her "rock" through life and several cancer battles. She also leaves behind her cherished daughter, Suzette Marie James of Leesburg, FL, beloved grandsons Joshua and Caleb Leware of Leesburg and many loving cousins. As she battled cancer, Jan was especially thankful to her friends and cousins for all their beautiful cards, love, support and prayers. She also was very appreciative to her UF doctor, Dr. Merry Jennifer Markham, for her excellent care that allowed Jan so many extra years. Jan always tried to make the most of these years, to make memories with family and friends. Jan, (Granny/Ninny), will be forever remembered for her strength and courage.

In lieu of flowers, Jan requested that memorials be made to UF Foundation, Inc. at PO Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604-9949 and indicate that the gift should go to the Medical Oncology Fund #F000363.

A gathering will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 10:30AM to 11:30 AM with a memorial service beginning at that time at Beyers Funeral Home Chapel, 1123 W. Main St, Leesburg, FL 34748 with Pastor David Stauffer officiating. A celebration of life will follow at the Leesburg Boat Club.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Gathering

APR 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory
1123 W Main St
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 787-4343

Memorial Service

APR 6. 11:30 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory
1123 W Main St
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 787-4343

Celebration of Life

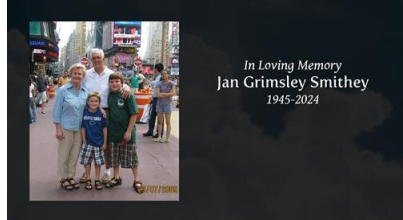
APR 6. 12:30 PM (ET)

Leesburg Boat Club
31 Dozier Cir
Leesburg, FL 34748

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jan Grimsley Smithey*



Beyers Funeral Home - April 02, 2024 at 01:58 PM

PT

“ Jan and I taught school together in Sumter County for a number of years. I had previously worked with her father as my principal and worked with her mother at the elementary school. They were beloved educators and I saw that she inherited many of their traits. Jan and I shared a classroom a couple of days a week for about a year when she was the gifted teacher and I was the Learning Resource Teacher. She developed educational, interesting, and appealing gifted projects for her students usually using her own money. I remember one of her gifted students was very sick one day but insisted on attending her gifted class, she couldn't miss that. She was dismayed when her parents said no. Jan had a lasting and longtime effect on her students and their learning.

When Jan was the Guidance Counselor, she developed a very interesting character from one of her Guidance puppets, "Duso". Jan and the Curriculum Assistant, Edna Adams, had the morning exercises viewed in the classrooms on television. "Duso" was very mischievous who always got in trouble to the students' delight but was taught how to make good choices and do the right thing. Jan had created a celebrity in "Duso" to the students and teaches alike. Jan's imagination and creativeness served her well.

Jan certainly had that warming smile and effervescent personality but she also had an alluring sense of humor.

Her foundation was in her faith and the love of her family. Her husband Smitty, daughter Susy, grandsons Joshua and Caleb kept her grounded with their love and support.

Jan, you will be missed. We all love your dearly.

Goodbye my sweet friend and comrade.

Patsy Tyler

Patsy Tyler - March 27, 2024 at 04:04 PM

PT

“ Patsy Tyler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jan Grimsley Smithey.



Patsy Tyler - March 26, 2024 at 12:22 PM

PW

“ Shared many a meal together. So sorry for family.

peggy weese - March 25, 2024 at 08:12 PM

LM

“ Lydia M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jan Grimsley Smithey.

Lydia M. - March 24, 2024 at 06:50 PM

LM

“ Thinking of Jan's family and friends as they pass through these days of memories. May God give them comfort, peace and love.

Lydia Mason - March 24, 2024 at 06:48 PM

GS

“ I was blessed to have been friends with Jan and bob smithy for many years and it is with great sadness that I just learned of her passing. When Jan entered a room her beautiful smile and her warm personally touched everyone she came in contact with. She will be greatly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her, and my prayers go out to her friends and family. I'm

glenn and carolyn sellers - March 24, 2024 at 03:48 AM

DF

Lovely sweet neighbor on Island Way. She walked in the evenings with Smitty and always had a bright smile on her face.

Dixie Fechtel - March 24, 2024 at 09:40 AM

DO

Jan was always cheerful, even on days that were hard for her. She was delightful. Jan will be sorely missed by our community. She and Bob were lessons on grace.

Dianna O'Kelley - March 24, 2024 at 10:10 AM

TP

Our neighborhood suffered a great loss with Jan's passing. She & Bob have been my neighbors & friends for the past 6+ years. Jan was one of the sweetest people I've ever met. Regardless of how difficult her day was she always had a smile. She was truly an example of a true southern lady. RIP sweet Jan. I will miss you. 🌹

Terry Peterson - March 24, 2024 at 10:29 AM

PJ

Jan was always with a smile and happy . She liked to have fun and welcomed anyone into her life as a friend. I will miss her daily. Patricia Jones

Patricia C Jones - March 24, 2024 at 12:33 PM

SB

*Bob and Jan have been wonderful neighbors.
Jan will leave a void in all our hearts
Jan was blessed, she was strong, and courageous. Jesus is the reason heaven is Jan's and our home.
Jan you were loved by all.*

Sandy Bell - March 24, 2024 at 01:08 PM

ML

I am so sorry for your loss. I remember her in high school and being a good neighbor. May God comfort the family.

Melba Leggett - March 24, 2024 at 02:49 PM

SP

*Her glowing countenance and loving (and fun) demeanor defined who she was. We followed our respective grandchildren with joy to baseball, soccer and many youth activities. I loved to talk with her!
God's got her now, blessing her for eternity!*

Sue Parsons - March 24, 2024 at 06:26 PM