



Olivia Smith Baird

November 27, 1944 - November 5, 2020

Olivia Lea Smith Baird, formerly of Lehi, Utah, peacefully passed away at home with her husband by her side on November 5, 2020. Olivia loved everyone and everyone loved her. She will be dearly missed.

On November 27, 1944, Olivia was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado to Oliver and Barbara Smith. She grew up in Provo, UT with her loving family and was the second eldest of eight children. She attended BY High, and during her junior year her father took the family to Hawaii on sabbatical where she attended Kahuku High School. Both schools were dear to her heart, and later in life she hosted and planned reunions for both. Throughout her youth she developed a love for several sports and activities including tennis, swimming, volleyball, waterskiing, softball, hula dancing, surfing, and drill team.

After high school, she attended BYU and graduated in Elementary Education. Later, she married Charles Baird on November 15, 1968 in the Salt Lake City Temple and then taught second grade for one year. They were blessed with six children, and the importance of family showed through how she loved and cared for her children as a homemaker for many years. Throughout their marriage, they lived in Santa Monica, CA for 13 years; Las Vegas, NV for 22 years; and then retired to Lehi, UT to be closer to family. Everywhere Olivia lived, she made friends and considered them friends forever. For both friends and those she hadn't previously met, she was a wonderful host who always provided a comfortable place to sleep, food to eat, and of course games to play, so much so that her home was nicknamed "The Baird Hotel".

A major part of Olivia's life was dedicated to volunteering and serving others. As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she served valiantly in a variety of church callings including president of the Primary, Young Women, and Relief Society. She also sponsored two Vietnamese refugee families, was heavily involved in PTA and Scouting, and aided in political campaigning and numerous medical fund raisers. Her leadership and organization were exceptional. Everything she did was with a cheerful heart, and when she saw a need she would help without waiting to be asked.

Olivia had a strong belief and testimony of her Savior, Jesus Christ and wanted to share that testimony with those around her. She always invited neighbors and friends to learn more about Christ, and in January 2008 she and her husband began a 23-month mission in Kiev, Ukraine. In 2010 she learned that her health was beginning to decline. Despite the challenges this brought, she remained thoughtful of others and continued to open her heart and home to all. She was aware of anyone not included and would always find a way to include them. Quietly and without any desire for recognition, she was generous. She lifted and blessed the world by being a part of it and left it better for us all.

Olivia was survived by her husband, Charles Avard Baird, and her six children: Jennifer Yeates (Gary) of Pennsylvania, John Baird (Jamie) of Virginia, Michael Baird (Kimberly) of Nevada, Emily Thompson (Chad) of Nevada, Stuart Baird (Katie) of Nevada, and Laura Corbridge (Shaun) of Utah. She was also survived by 34 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren; by sisters Kay Rytting, Becky Snyder, and Debby Smith; and brothers Ken Smith, Ron Smith and Rick Smith. She was preceded in death by her sister, Dorothy Gillespie, and 2 grandchildren.

We would like to give a special thanks to all the caregivers who lovingly took care of Olivia during her ten years of health decline from Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia.

A private family Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, November 14th, 10:00 am at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 9681 North 6900 West, Highland, Utah and will also be broadcast on <http://mywebcast.churchofjesuschrist.org/lehiutahcedarhollowstake>

There will be a Friday night viewing from 6-8pm and a Saturday morning viewing from 9-9:45am both at the church. Interment will be in the Provo City Cemetery. COVID protocol will be observed and masks and social distancing during all these events will be required.

Olivia would be pleased if in lieu of flowers, donations were made to Primary Children's Hospital or to any other charity of your choice.

https://secure3.convio.net/ihchs/site/Donation2;jsessionid=00000000.app367a?df_id=1566&mfc_pref=T&1566.donation=form1&NONCE_TOKEN=45105346AC10EFFA37CE14D8BF4962A4

Cemetery

Provo City Cemetery

610 South State Street
Provo, UT, 84606

Events

NOV **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

13

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
9681 North 6900 West, Highland, UT, US, 84003

NOV **Viewing** 09:00AM - 09:45AM

14

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
9681 North 6900 West, Highland, UT, US, 84003

NOV **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

14

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
9681 North 6900 West, Highland, UT, US, 84003

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Services



Utah Valley Mortuary - January 27 at 04:57 PM



“ Olivia Lea Smith Baird Tribute

Olivia Baird is a sacred name to me. She was truly an angel here on earth. Our family was so blessed to move into the same neighborhood and ward as the Charles and Olivia Baird family in December of 1984. We had six children, ages 11 down to 6 months, and when we left that home 9 ½ years later we had added 4 more. Olivia was such an organized, capable, and Christ-like woman. She was selfless in giving of her time and talents. She served in many capacities in our ward. Everyone loved her.

One incident I would like to share took place because of a scout fund-raiser. We purchased the ticket to have our 15 seat white Dodge van washed and detailed-clean. We thought it would be done by one of her scout sons. Instead, it was cleaned by Olivia, herself. That van came back to us so immaculately clean, one had to wear sun-glasses to withstand the glare. If anyone in the ward was in need of food, service, or a comforting word, Olivia was the first in line to give.

When we left to serve our mission, we stored much of our belongings in Charles and Olivia's basement. It was air-conditioned and everything was perfectly safe. Their home was a haven to many. They designed it intelligently; it would serve not only their family, but others, as well. I loved that marvelous home and yard. But most of all, I loved its inhabitants. They loved the Lord and had His spirit in their hearts and lives.

Anne Stewart - November 23, 2020 at 02:55 AM



“ In our early teens, my cousin Olivia and I shared some fun adventures even though our families lived an hour's drive apart: going to BYU Education Week, climbing Mt. Timpanogos (which I could never have completed without her!), playing lots of Canasta, and more. It was after my freshman year at BYU, that Olivia became much more than a cousin to me. After my dad was killed in a plane accident, Olivia's wonderful parents, Oliver and Barbara, invited me to live with them while I attended BYU. Olivia shared her room with me and her friendship. She has a truly generous spirit! She was mature without being stuffy, disciplined and organized, but fun. She had a confidence about her, but was never cocky. Truly, she was amazing! I cannot think of any one person, other than my parents and siblings, who has had a greater influence on me. When she and Charles and their kids had a full house in Las Vegas, they always had a place to welcome travelers between Calif. and Utah. Unfortunately, for most of our adult lives, Olivia and I lived in different states and didn't see each other often. But for years after her Parkinson's diagnosis, she continued to visit others and show her concern. When my mother was 98 and had broken her hip, Olivia came by and took her some cookies. Nearly 2 years later, I was touched and amazed to see that Olivia had traveled to Salt Lake City to attend my mother's funeral. I admire her immeasurably and consider her a beloved friend. I send my love to her husband Charles and their children, and to Olivia's brothers and sisters who all blessed me by sharing their childhood home with me. I pray peace and comfort for you all. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" is a scripture about Olivia Lea Smith Baird!

~Rosetta (Rosie) Smith

Rosetta Smith - November 23, 2020 at 01:21 AM



“ More than anyone else Olivia was the one who helped us settle in to begin serving in Ukraine in 2008. She knew everything and everyone. She knew all the answers to our questions. She was so attentive and selfless, and she worked tirelessly to help those wonderful missionaries. The only challenge was to get her to take a rest. She and Charles immediately agreed to extend their service when another couple was not ready to replace them. We recognize better now the sacrifice that was for them and their family. She was an angel in our eyes, who along with her husband gave her life to the Lord. We miss her, but time goes so quickly now, and we know we will see her again.

Lane Steinagel - November 16, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ Although Olivia is one of fifty Smith cousins (dare I say my favorite, or at least one of my favorites ?), she always treated me as a sister would a younger brother. She made me feel part of the family whenever I visited the Smiths. I remember playing games with her, Kay and Ken at sleepovers at their house in Provo. In spring of 1979, Olivia and family hosted my young family as we traveled from Provo to California. While we visited Disneyland with our older kids, Olivia watched our toddler so we could enjoy the day. She and Charles made us feel right at home during our visit. Our experiences with Olivia confirm that her whole life was full of loving care for everyone she met. Our lives as well as the world are made better by Olivia’s legacy of love and service.

Charles Whitaker - November 14, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ One of my many memories of Olivia was with all the cousins at the Mckay house in Huntsville. She was the best ball player!! She never struck out, never missed a fly ball, grounder or even a line drive. Always encouraging not only her team but the other team as well. She was just the sweetest person I think I have ever met. My prayers and thoughts go out to all of her wonderful family, with lots of Love, Steve



Steve Card - November 13, 2020 at 08:17 PM



“ I have to say, in all my years, I have never met a more loving, organized and charitable person. Olivia paid attention to the Spirit and sometimes would just show up on my doorstep when I needed her most. She took time to make everyone feel important and never shied away from something that was hard. She helped us understand that we are all brothers and sisters - no matter what!
I love you, Olivia, and will look forward to the day we meet up again. I know my mom and little sister were part of the thousands there to greet you on the other side. They both adored you. I know it was a wonderful homecoming! Blessings and prayers to the Baird family. Yes, she will be missed, but she definitely make her mark upon anyone who knew her. I was grateful to be one of those people.

Corey Wardle - November 12, 2020 at 07:05 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Emily Thompson - November 11, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Olivia was just one of my many cousins but she stood out from the crowd. Not much older than myself, we spent lots of time together when my family visited most summers of our childhood. Much of it was spent playing in and around the Huntsville home our mothers grew up in. Those are the best memories and Olivia was always sweet and kind and generous to a fault. I never heard her say a bad word, pick a fight or tease anyone (siblings may have other info but I can't imagine it). She maintained these admirable traits I'm sure throughout her life and in all the things she did. I will always remember her as a significant part of my happy childhood. I saw her only a few times in the last 10 years but she was heroic dealing with the ravages of Parkinson's. At our last family reunion a couple of years ago, she participated fully and was just the same sweet Olivia she had always been. She insisted on coming to festivities on the second day and won out against strong opinion that she should not over-do-it and stay home. We were all so very happy to see her again and witness this fighting spirit. I will always keep your memory dear to my heart Olivia. Rest easy now.

My thoughts are with you Charles, your children, grand and great-grand children as well as all my Smith cousins and their families. I know you all looked after her in her hours of need as she had cared for and loved all of you. She lives on in our memories and stories written here.

Leslie Jensen Graybill

Leslie Jensen Graybill - November 11, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ Olivia is by far one of the kindest women I knew. She was ALWAYS thinking of others and concerned for their welfare. As a young man, Charles was our Boy Scout troop leader in Vegas. Some of my fondest memories as a teenager were weekly meetings in the Baird's home. Olivia was always there to greet us on our way down to the basement and though I've mentioned it a few times in the last few days verbally, I'm happy to get it on paper: I'm looking forward to the time I can meet with Olivia again and humbly request that she bake me a banana cream pie :). The world will miss you!!!

Bill Strobehn - November 10, 2020 at 12:33 AM



“ Olivia was my favorite babysitter (sorry, Kay) during the years we lived across 11th East from the Smiths (pre-kindergarten through 4th grade, roughly 1953 or -4 to 1958).

My daughter Olivia was not exactly named after her, but Olivia Smith was certainly a major reason that I found the name attractive. I also think her personality influenced the character traits that I, fitfully but finally successfully, looked for in a prospective spouse.

I believe I saw her only once or twice briefly in the last 40 years, but she never seemed to have lost any of what so favorably impressed me.

My condolences to Charles (i have some memories of you as a young man courting her) and all her family and friends. Also, my thanks to those who attended her through her final years.

Finally, my greetings to Kay, Ken[ny], Ron[ny], Becky (and Rick Snyder, a missionary companion for a month or two in Kita Kyushu), Debby, and Rick. You, and your parents Barbara and Oliver, and your late sister Dorothy, form {to varying degrees but collectively) an enormous and pleasant part of my childhood memories. Thank you.

Roland

Roland Monson - November 09, 2020 at 08:34 PM



“ I always saw Olivia as a kind person. She was calm, and can I say, perfect? My memories of her are mostly from a trip of a lifetime that I went on with her, my first cousin Rosie Smith, their fathers, and our grandfather, Hyrum. We visited Cardston, Alberta, Canada when we cousins were about 16 years of age. We chose to experienced life at the George and Lorraine Salt ranch, as the men went on to visit Edmonton. I also occasionally visited her home in Provo and remember hiking up to the Y on the mountain. I think we took jars of milk in our lunches. I have enjoyed reading about Olivia and Charles' family at Christmas time and seeing pictures of them. I could tell she was a really, really good woman, and now I am learning more. I send my love to all who miss her. Mary Anne (Clark) Koski

Mary Anne Koski - November 12, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ We are both so sad that we cannot attend the funeral for our dear, sweet Olivia. She was genuine and kind to everyone. We remember her as a "doer" always volunteering to be on a committee or extra curricular activities while attending BYU High School. She was one of the few classmates who continually kept in touch- (even though she moved to several different states.) Our daughter got to know her as a "fellow tennis player." In her prime, Olivia was a "challenge" even for the younger players. When she was diagnosed with her disease, she still maintained her optimistic outlook and continued to make occasional visits to our home. She was truly an example of strength and courage. To her family we would like to send our love and condolences. You have been blessed with a beautiful mother both inside and out. May you feel the strength of our loving Heavenly

Father in this difficult time. May you feel her love continually surround you and may you know that you are in our prayers.

Affectionately,

Richard and Sharleen Thomas

Richard/Sharleen Thomas - November 13, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ Aunt Olivia has served in ways that make me marvel. Once at a Baird reunion 20 or 30 years ago, hundreds of Bairds showed up at the group campsite at Goblin Valley. As I heard it, we were way above capacity, but Aunt Olivia cleaned all the bathrooms twice a day and the rangers decided things were under control and they could accommodate all of us after all. Another lovely act of love, was Aunt Olivia and Uncle Charles welcoming cousin Steven into their home for a year or so, so Aunt Collette and Uncle Keith could serve a mission. And how many of us have slept in that basement room with 20 beds while passing through Las Vegas? I love Aunt Olivia's generosity and gentle smile. I'm so thankful for her example. God be with you and your wonderful family, Uncle Charles. I love you, cousins!

Sharon A Bradford - November 13, 2020 at 08:28 PM



“ My sweet cousin Olivia was one of those angels on earth, and now is hard at work being an angel in heaven! I was one of the younger Smith cousins, but I could always feel her love and acceptance of me, even though I was just a kid to her. She reminds me so much of my sister Georgia, who passed away last year. It has warmed my heart to read her obituary and participate in her funeral online. She has left a legacy of love and a beautiful family! May the Lord bless you all, until we meet again.

Margaret Whitaker Jensen - November 14, 2020 at 01:47 PM