



Arlene Beverly Smith

January 22, 1944 - March 8, 2025

Arlene Beverly Smith, 81 of Springfield, MA, passed away at 12:13pm on March 8, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center.

Arlene Davis was born in Washington, D.C. to Annabelle Davis and Joe Henderson on January 22, 1944. She attended local schools in D.C. before moving to Springfield, MA around 1966. While in Washington, D.C., Arlene married Archie Smith Sr. and to this union, 4 children were born. On her arrival to Springfield, Arlene was initially unable to receive any assistance until a good Samaritan step in as a mentor, encouraging her to earn an associate degree and later earn a bachelor's degree from UMASS. Continuing her education, Arlene earned a master's degree from UConn, becoming a license clinical social worker (LCSW). She worked diligently in various positions in Holyoke and Springfield for the Department of Children and Family Services. As Area Director in Springfield, Arlene retired after 32 years. However, she continued to help children and families in numerous capacities.

Arlene enjoyed sports, music, dancing, traveling on cruises and hosting her younger cousins that loved fishing and the new england summers. She loved playing tennis with the neighbors. Like all of the Davis clan women, Arlene was a great cook and shared her love of cooking with family on vacations to Myrtle Beach.

Arlene enjoyed spending time supporting her DCF children and family

members. Arlene loved to volunteer and recruit foster parents.

Arlene was a long-time Arie member (17 years) of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, Number 148. She contributed significantly to the community outreach in the Mason Square area. Over the years, Arlene served in various positions and on several committees. Her last position held was chaplain.

Oldest son, Archie received support from Arlene during his junior high school days, while competing in basketball and table tennis. Like his mother, Archie earned an associate degree and recently authored, "Non-Profit Gold". Gail attended The Technical High School and worked in management in the food service industry. All three children were track and field standouts, however they could never out sprint Arlene. She took pride in challenging and besting her children in each and every outing.

Arlene made a point of helping her son Rodney use her vehicle to attend college at Western New England University, work and to compete in wrestling. One of her greatest highlights was attending the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, to witness Rodney achieve the bronze medal in Greco Roman Wrestling. Arlene, Aunt Burnisteen and others family members also attended the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games where Rodney was chosen as Team Captain. After their first date at the White House, Rodney and Olympic bronze medalist and 5-time Hall of Famer, Sharon Jewell, hosted the family in Atlanta and in Massachusetts at Rodney's multiple Hall of Fame Inductions. Following in her academic footsteps, Arlene encouraged both to achieve numerous master's degrees.

Arlene is survived by her Aunt Burnisteen Coleman, who raised "took care of" her from an early age and served as a mother, big sister and auntie. She is also survived by her three beloved children: Archie Jr., Gail Smith-McAuley and Rodney (Sharon), all of Massachusetts. She leaves 2 grandsons:

Michael(Heather) and Miles (Alex) Jackson, 6 great grandchildren: Chaiya, Maliqe, Mikhai, Talashia, Miles Jr. and Talia, and one great, great grandson, Messiah. She also leaves 4 lovely ladies and 1 gentleman that helped to create her legacy: Chymia, Monique, Tashea, Alex and Nyshawn. Arlene will be missed by a whole host of multi-generational cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, daughter Yvette, Archie Smith Sr., BFF Kenny Westbrook, brothers-in-law Elmore and Alfred Smith, sister-in-law Vivian Smith Freeman, son-in-law Robert McAuley, daughter-in-law, Crystal, 7 aunts and uncles, and several first cousins.

Memorial donations may be made to:

1) The Arlene Smith, Against All Odds Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 91375
Springfield, MA 01139

And /or

2) In Memory of Arlene Smith
Rays of Hope Walk and Run on October 19, 2025
raysofhope@baystatehealth.org
(413) 794-8001

The funeral services will be held on March 25, 2025 at New England Funeral and Cremation Center, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA, beginning with a period of visitation from 10:00AM-11:00AM and a memorial service from 11:00AM-12:30PM. Inurnment will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery, 426 Bay Street, Springfield, MA.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New England Funeral & Cremation Center
25 Mill Street
Springfield, MA 01108
(413) 733-1522
info@nefcc.net
<https://www.nefcc.net/>

Memorial Service

MAR 25. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

New England Funeral & Cremation Center
25 Mill Street
Springfield, MA 01108
(413) 733-1522
info@nefcc.net
<https://www.nefcc.net/>

Inurnment

MAR 25 (ET)

Oak Grove Cemetery
426 Bay Street
Springfield, MA 01109

Tribute Wall

RB

“ I had the great opportunity to work with Arline as a fellow manager and director at the Department of Children and Families for over twenty-five years. Her commitment to children, families, staff and the community was outstanding. Her vision for the best outcomes for children was complete and unending. I learned so much for her. We were all better professionals at DCF because we had Arlene in our lives.

Ray Burke - April 05, 2025 at 11:10 AM

HW

“ My dearest Auntie Arlene - I love you in every lifetime. Now you and my mom can dance together again. Until the next time my girl - I love you I love you I love you!

Halima Walters - March 25, 2025 at 03:18 PM

PG

“ To the entire family of Miss Smith, we offer our deepest condolences to you all. We will never forget the hospitality she showed us during our visits to her home. May God strengthen you during this difficult time.

With Love, Michael and Pamela Green of West Haven, CT.

Pam Green - March 25, 2025 at 08:55 AM

RW

“ Arlene was an awesome caring woman. Her love for children and her community will be missed. Recall her yearly collection of backpacks, gloves and hats, She distributed so many toys at Christmas to needy families. Her kindness and humor and love of life, will be missed.

Rosemary Woods - March 24, 2025 at 04:52 PM

SD

“ Stefan Davis purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Arlene Beverly Smith.



Stefan Davis - March 24, 2025 at 10:38 AM

SD

“ Stefan Davis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arlene Beverly Smith.

Stefan Davis - March 24, 2025 at 10:38 AM

LS

“ Love Morela & Ciara Speller purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Arlene Beverly Smith.



Love Morela & Ciara Speller - March 24, 2025 at 10:28 AM

EA

“ My wife & I will miss our quality visits with Arlene. We'll never forget Christmas dinner. We're so privileged to be part of the family.

Eric L Andrews - March 23, 2025 at 05:48 PM

JH

“ Joseph and Toni Hendrix purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Arlene Beverly Smith.



Joseph and Toni Hendrix - March 23, 2025 at 09:32 AM

JH

“ Joseph and Toni Hendrix planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arlene Beverly Smith.

Joseph and Toni Hendrix - March 23, 2025 at 09:32 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Arlene Beverly Smith.



March 21, 2025 at 10:26 AM

TE

“*To the best mother-in-law, thank you for always being there for me. You were not only a loving and dedicated mother but also my best friend. Your strength, kindness, and unwavering support have made such a difference in my life. I will forever cherish the memories we shared. Rest in peace, and know you will always hold a special place in my heart.*” Terri

terri - March 20, 2025 at 12:53 PM