Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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Elva Rae Crowe

March 12, 1939 - Nov. 14, 2023

On November 14, 2023, Elva Rae Crowe passed away in the arms of her loving husband, Cornelius. She gained her wings and joined her Heavenly Father, departing this earthly world, at the age of 84. Born on March 12, 1939, and raised in Burke County to the late Ira Smith and Elva Elizabeth Pritchard Smith, she made Morganton her home.

Early in her life she worked as a teacher assistant helping children and, later, became a nursing assistant helping the elderly and those with mental illnesses. Although she was only 5 feet tall, she gained the respect of many former students and patients making a big impact on their lives. She was always active in church singing in the choir, performing in religious plays, and holding titles from Youth Leader to Treasurer. She always greeted others with a smile on her face, a “good morning” and a pep in her step. She will be fondly remembered for her delicious desserts that she brought to church and family functions.

One of her passions in life was travelling to new places and experiencing different cultures. She and her husband sailed around the Caribbean, Central America, Bermuda, and Canada on 13 cruises. In addition, they have travelled to all 50 states during their 67-year marriage.

She was a devoted, compassionate wife and mother who adored her husband and daughter. She loved unconditionally, gave her time selflessly, and was always a source of encouragement during difficult times. Her thoughtfulness and generosity were felt throughout the community and she was looked at as a mother-figure to many. She leaves many precious memories for family and friends to cherish.

Rae is survived by her husband, Cornelius; daughter, Michelle Howell and husband, Brian; grandchildren, Parker and Brielle; numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and extended family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Charles Pritchard and Hubert Pritchard; and sisters, Nancy Pritchard and Lois Garrison.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m., Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Poarch Chapel Missionary Methodist Church. A celebration of Elva's life will follow at 3 p.m. in the church with Rev. Wallace Smith officiating.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family.

Tribute Wall

While Rae & I worked at Grace Hospital, she was a delight to work with. Her work ethic, compassion, & humor brought light to everyone she encountered.

–Katrina Anne Herman Avery

–Wanda Nichols



Sending prayers and hugs to the family. She was a precious lady and will greatly be missed. Go rest high on that mountain Rae your work here is done. The family of Frank Smith.

–Penny Smith



We haven't met u long but u will be very dearly beloved missed n we know that you are u up in Heaven n no more sick, hurting, going to the hospital,etc anymore! So sorry for your loss ! Our prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time!

–Tammy Walker

–Darshna Ray





Sending prayers for the family

–Mary Brown

So sorry to hear of Rae's passing.I worked with Rae at Grace Hospital. She was a joy to work with and was always a friend.Praying that you will find comfort in the Lord. Phyllis Smith

–Phyllis Smith



I am so Sorry of your lost love one. I have you all in my prayers! And if you don't remember who I am I am Connie Herdrick sister a live on hartland Trail just above for you live so if you need anything, let me know I will try to do what I can do and I am on Facebook also.

–Judy Hedrick Lingerfelt

We will miss on of our best friends. We love he whole family and will be praying for the peace that only God can provide to the family.

–Steve & Cathy Gantt

–Shannon Gragg



Goodbye sweet friend. I will see you again but I will miss you until then.

–Alma arney