



## Dawn Joy Smith

October 4, 1963 - September 29, 2025

Dawn Joy Smith passed away on Monday, September 29, 2025, after a battle with cancer. The daughter of missionary parents, Dawn was born October 4, 1963, in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and grew up in Quito, Ecuador, as her parents moved around the world to spread the word of God. Raised in the Christian and Missionary Alliance, she was taught to love God and Jesus.

Her early education was completed at Alliance Academy in the cities of Mamou, Guinea, and Quito. Graduating early from both high school (as valedictorian of her class) and college, she earned a B.A. in Spanish Education at Asbury College. She completed her student teaching program at Twin Wells Indian Mission School, located on a Navajo reservation in Sun Valley, Arizona. As a Spanish and English teacher, she inspired and uplifted many lives, teaching at Baileysville High School in Baileysville, West Virginia, before moving to Frankfort, Kentucky, where she taught at Franklin County High School, earned her Master's in Education from Georgetown College, and retired from her teaching career at Western Hills High School in 2019.

She enjoyed crocheting, beading, gardening, and reading and had an affinity for art and music, loving to sing and play instruments such as the piano, violin, and clarinet. Painting inspirational images on rocks, she delighted in hiding them for others to find and posting to the Facebook page, Frankfort KY Rocks. She most loved spending time with her family and pets.

She is survived by her husband, Jesse Smith; daughter, Cait Smith; and son, Ian Smith, of Frankfort. Additionally, she is survived by her sister, Darla Emary of Florida, and brother, John William Emary, of Vine Grove, Kentucky. She was preceded in death by her father, John Leslie Emary, of Lorain, Ohio, and her mother, Marsha Jean Rose Emary, of Akron, Ohio.

There will be a gathering to celebrate Dawn's life at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home, 312 Washington Street, Frankfort, Kentucky, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made by donating to cancer research at the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Previous Events

## Gathering

OCT 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home  
312 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-4526  
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com  
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Tammie Smith lit a candle in memory of Dawn Joy Smith*



Tammie Smith - October 11, 2025 at 06:59 AM

AH

“ *Prayers for Jesse and all the family. Rest in Heaven my friend*



Amy Henkel - October 07, 2025 at 08:48 AM



“ *58 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - October 06, 2025 at 10:13 AM