



## Shirley Ann (Smith) Shoquist

October 1, 1936 - June 28, 2021

### The Life of Shirley Ann Shoquist

Shirley Ann (Smith) Shoquist, 84, a Rockwall resident since 1976, passed away from this life on June 28, 2021, and into the arms of her loving Lord and Savior. Absolutely nothing was as important to Shirley as her loving relationship with Jesus Christ, her husband Bruce, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, former students, and her dear close friends.

Shirley was born to Maurice D. Smith and Alpha Amanda (Torres) Smith, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on October 1, 1936. Shirley is survived by her loving husband, Bruce Shoquist, children Sheri Franza, and husband Ed, Steve Shoquist, and wife Kelley, Stacy Weishaar, and husband Durand, and Shannon Cannon, and husband Thure. Her adoring grandchildren; Ryan Franza, and wife Brittany, Todd Franza, and wife Katie, Cody Weishaar, and wife Kaylea, Katie Weishaar, Macall McKenzie, and husband David, Corbin Shoquist, Knox Cannon, and Nash Cannon. Precious great-grandchildren; Cru Franza, Kase Franza, Coen Franza, Cole Franza, and Caroline McKenzie. Sisters include Barbara Davis, Carol Bush, sister-in-law Claire Smith, Brother-in-law Dick Shoquist, and wife Jean Marie. Nieces and nephews; Lisa Hilderbrand, Amy Lackey, Dawson Smith, Debbie Davis, Jeffrey Bush, Jennifer Turner, Charlene Shoquist, and a host of other loved ones and former students who will miss her dearly. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Alpha and Maurice Smith, and her brother Dale Smith.

Shirley graduated from John Harris High School in 1954, attended William and Mary College her freshman year, and transferred to Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where she majored in English and Public Speaking and graduated on the Dean's List in 1958. It was also at Denison University where she met and married the love of her life, Bruce Shoquist, on December 19, 1958.

As they held hands tightly and leaned on each other, they were transferred to a Marine Corps Base in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where Sheri and Steve were born. In 1962,

Bruce was deployed to Cuba, and Shirley took their two young children to Dallas to live with her parents and teach school until Bruce returned in 1963. They bought a beautiful little home on Cinderella Lane in Dallas, and Stacy and Shannon were born. Life was simple, fun, and forever memorable.

In 1976, the Shoquist Family moved to Rockwall, and Shirley got busy right away. She was the founding member of Reviews, Reviews Book Club, a member of the Rockwall Literary Club, Rockwall Supper Club, and Aspasiens. Shirley and Bruce and their four children became active members of Heath Baptist Church and were among some of the first families of Lakepointe Church. She began her twenty-year career as an educator at Rockwall High School, which she said was some of the most enjoyable and fulfilling years of her life. She taught English and started the Speech and Drama Department for RHS. She was the U.I.L. Coordinator, coaching persuasive and informative speaking, Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Cross-Examination Debate, poetry, prose, and current events. Her competitive teams were outstanding at every tournament and always left with a 1st Place trophy, and sometimes winning the entire tournament in every category. Every year, 'Mrs. Shoquist' had two or more students advance to the State tournament in Austin, which gave Rockwall great recognition in the field of U.I.L.

In 1994, Shirley was nominated by her students as a candidate to receive the national award, "The Best Teachers in America Selected by the Best Students", based on her merit as a teacher who "made a difference" in the lives of her students. She won the award and was acknowledged for her excellence as a distinguished educator by Who's Who Among American Teachers. In 1996, she retired from Rockwall High School and continued teaching public speaking at Richland Junior College for a few years, while volunteering at the Pregnancy Resource Center and the Lakepointe Church Newcomer's Group. She was an active member of the Retired Teachers Association and a Boutique Lady at Stein Mart. She spent more than thirty-five years traveling the world with dear friends and family. She loved snow skiing, boating, trips to Cabo, Orange Beach, Alaska, Rome, hot air ballooning, and cruises all over the world. She loved hosting weekly Bible Study in her home and always welcomed as many who would come to Sunday dinners after church. Shirley used every facet of her life to minister to others and bring them to the Lord. She has left a one-of-a-kind legacy which will be remembered forever.

"At the age of 80, I have enjoyed a very full, interesting, and challenging life, and I feel very blessed. My family and my teaching are the highlights of my life, and if I was to do it over, I would not change a thing. I'm a very fortunate lady having lived a very happy and full life."

Funeral services are to be held on Friday, July 9, 2021, at 2:00 PM, at The Bridge at LakePointe church, in Rockwall, Texas, with Pastor Steve Stroope officiating. A celebration of Shirley and luncheon will follow the service. A gathering of friends and loved ones will be held the evening prior, Thursday, July 8, 2021, at Rest Haven Funeral Home in Rockwall, Texas, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

# Events

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**JUL** **Gathering** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**8**

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The Gathering at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location  
2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

**JUL** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**9**

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Lake Pointe Church The Bridge  
701 East I-30, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa (Smith) Hilderbrand - July 09 at 10:23 AM

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“ Mrs. Shoquist was my freshman English teacher. She gave me the love of reading a good book. I so enjoyed Ann Frank and Romeo and Juliet. I saw Mrs. Shoquist at the grocery store once. She lit up like a Christmas tree while discussing her grandchildren. I'm blessed that our paths crossed. I do hope the family is able to remember and share the precious memories.

God Bless,  
Angela Brannon



Angela Brannon - July 05 at 12:10 PM

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“ Dear Shoquist family,

Recently I was in the area where ya'll live and thought about Mrs. Shoquist. She always held a special place in my heart, because, when I had her as an English Teacher at Rockwall High School, I was failing because I could not take tests. My mother and I met with Mrs. Shoquist one day and explained the situation. She very kindly offered to give me daily homework to do, so that I could get my grade up and pass her class. I will never forget that as long as I live. My life is only one that she touched, but I wanted you to know what her caring ways as a teacher meant to me.

Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers,

Janet Vank Evans  
RHS 1980

Janet Vank Evans - July 04 at 09:00 PM

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“ I wasn't a student of Shirley, but I knew her, and I know she will be greatly missed by her family. Prayers to you all during this time.

Sherri Johnston  
Rockwall

Sherri Johnston - July 03 at 09:19 AM

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“ Mrs. Shoquist was and will always be one of my favorite teachers at Rockwall High School. She made English and Theatre fun and special, and often held parties for her students at her lovely home. She helped me to want to become a writer, and to continue in Theatre. She holds a very dear and special place in my heart and the hearts of many. My prayers and thoughts are with her family and friends in this time of loss, but also I rejoice that she is Home and completely well again, walking with her Savior.

**Robin Sturgeon Abess** - July 03 at 01:36 AM



“ I loved Shirley and enjoyed working with her on the All-School Show along with Bill. She was fun to work with and I enjoyed collaborating with her. But I got to know her the best when we attended the First Baptist Church in Heath. Later we joined Dalrock Baptist which is now named LakePointe Church. We attended the Classic Service together and the same Sunday School, later called Life Group, under the teaching of Dr. Timothy Warren. Our class had once-a-month pot luck dinners and really enjoyed fellowshiping with her and Bruce. She was a gracious and kind lady who spread her love and joy to all she knew! I had the privilege of knowing her lovely daughters who were bright and shining examples of dear Shirley's zest for life! I will miss her sweet presence and beautiful smile. Asking the Lord to bless Bruce and the entire family.

**Anne Wallace Morton** - July 03 at 11:16 AM



“ Donna Jacobs Allen lit a candle in memory of Shirley Ann (Smith) Shoquist



**Donna Jacobs Allen** - July 03 at 12:39 AM



“ The Shoquist family is in my prayers. Mrs. Shoquist's class is one that I remember like yesterday. I walked to Coach Davi's class with Stacey. Peace be with all of you at this time.

David Collins  
Santa Maria, California

**David Collins** - July 02 at 05:19 PM