

## Margaret Smith



MAY 24, 2014 1:00 AM

MARION -- Margaret Chamberlin Smith, 94, formerly of Anna, died at 2:04 a.m. Thursday, May 22, 2014, in Parkway Manor.

Margaret was born June 24, 1919, in Shelby County, to Frank and Lotty Chamberlin.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Tom Chamberlin.

She is survived by a son, Bradley Don Smith of Marion; and two daughters, Terri Fowler (Robert) of Port St. Lucie, Florida, and Brenda Edgar (Jim) of Springfield.

She is, also survived by grandchildren, Mike (Robin) Fowler of Georgia, Tami Fowler, and Jodie and (Ron) Roppoccio, all of Florida, Brad and (Stacey) Edgar, and Elizabeth and (Jon) Lowe, all of Colorado; and great-grandchildren, Brendan and Connor Fowler, Bryan and Caitlyn Roppoccio, Dakota, Cali and Ellie Edgar, and Jake and Cecilia

Lowe.

Margaret received her Bachelor of Science degree in business education from Eastern Illinois University and her Master of Science degree in business education from SIU. She retired after 29 years of teaching in 1985. Twenty-three of those years were at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

She was a member of the Anna Methodist Church since 1960 and taught the B Square Sunday school class for several years. She was a 60-year member of the Vienna Daniel Chapman Chapter of DAR.

She was a World War II Veteran, having served as a WASP (Women's Air Service Pilots) in 1944. The WASPS were militarized by Congress in 1977.

Many women at the start of World War II were compelled to contribute to the war effort. She went to St. Louis to learn Radio Code and went to Scott Air force Base where she taught Morse Code to pilots. While there, she was fascinated watching the flyers and loved to go barnstorming with a friend. Her dad approved taking flying lessons in nearby Mascoutah. Soon

she read about the new WASP program (Women's Air Service Pilots) where she was one of a little over 1,000 women accepted in the program. She was the first to solo in her class.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, in Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro. Burial will be in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Mattoon. Visitation will be from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the United Methodist Church of Anna.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.crainsonline.com](http://www.crainsonline.com).