



*H*ilda Smith, born Hilda Theresia Kurtz, passed into the Lord's care early on the morning of Thursday, January 27th. She passed in her sleep and experienced no pain. She was 85 years old.

She spent her long life well. The child of Austrian immigrants, Theresia Holl Kurtz and Josef Kurtz, she spoke only German when she first enrolled in school in Chicago. And though she never lost her German, she soon had mastered English and grew into the elegant beauty that caught the eye of dashing young officer in the Army Corps of Engineers Robert C. Smith. The two were married very much in love in 1946 and after Robert's teaching jobs took them to the east coast, they decided in 1960 to move out west to Bozeman, the community to which they would return to again and again and which they considered their home. After their three daughters, Karen, Diane and Barbara were grown up, she got a position as a receptionist at a local orthodontist's office, and at the RSVP office. Throughout her life, her highest priority was to be a wonderful wife, mother and homemaker. She and Robert had three daughters and many grandchildren and great grandchildren, to whom she was known as "Ama".

Hilda brought joy to those around her. She was compassionate and indefatigably graceful. She took pleasure in helping whomever she could, and was generous with whatever she had. She was a woman of steadfast faith who treasured being involved with her church and community. She enjoyed music and movies, particularly the classic films she had enjoyed in her youth, having once worked at the Metro Goldwyn Mayer business office in Chicago. She will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, wife, aunt, sister-in-law and friend.

Finally, she will be remembered for her abiding sense of humor, which expressed itself in everything she did, not the least in her wonderful smile and catching laugh. Everyone who saw it could not help but join in.

She will always be missed by those of us fortunate enough to have had her in our lives.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 62 years and the love of her life, Robert C. Smith. They were uniquely devoted to one another, and only grew more in love as the years went on.

She is survived by her sister in law, Nancy Hutz and her husband, John; and her nephews Lee, Scott, Todd and David, daughter, Karen Foust and husband, Jan, of Bozeman; daughter, Diane Miranda, of Big Fork, and daughter, Barbara Kaftan and husband, Rick, of Belgrade.

Robert and Hilda were blessed with seven grandchildren, Joshua Huyser and wife, Leah, of Minneapolis, Shiloh McBee, of Bozeman; Tim Foust and wife, Joella, of Townsend; John Huyser and wife, Theresa, of Gallatin Gateway; Stephanie Furqueron and husband, Elric, of Bozeman; Moriah McKee and husband, Matt, of Bozeman; Joseph Shelton of Bozeman, and two great-grandchildren, Zemirah Isabel Furqueron and Miykah Rose Furqueron.

A memorial service and celebration of Hilda's life is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, March 26 at the Dokken-Nelson Sunset Chapel.