**15770, Maureen Smith-Anderson**

Catherine was born, May 26th, 1919, one year before white women earned the right to vote. The fact that African American women were left in the dust until the sixties greatly irritated my mother! She was born Mary Catherine Greene, but later her name became reversed to Catherine Mary and the 'e' on the end of Green was dropped. Mom was born in Astoria, New York. She was a big baby and the doctor told my nana she'd not survive the night due to a lung infection. "I've proved them all wrong,” Mom would say, telling her story triumphantly. Catherine Green graduated from Julia Richman High School in 1938, not with an academic diploma, but a business one!

Our mother survived the Great Depression. Catherine lived through hearing and reading of the news reports of WWII, The Holocaust, The Horrors in Cambodia, The Korean, Vietnam, Granada, The Falklands, and the First and Second Gulf Wars and lived the feeling of the Terror Attacks of 9/11, on her own city! Mom and I often discussed war, including the ending of the war in Iraq, and the possibility of the transfer of power to the people. Catherine, always the staunch Democrat, frequently commented on Women's Healthcare Rights of their choosing, and admired Hillary Rodham and felt she was the one to become president.

Mom had an interesting life, considering the time in which she lived. My mother told me she was watching a parade from her office window in Manhattan when Sir Winston Churchill waved directly at her. As for her career working as a bookkeeper, she interviewed and accepted a position with Adelphi University in Garden City, NY. There, she paved her way through two years of matriculated accounting and core courses! Later, at the age of 73, she earned her course completion certificate in computer literacy! All the while, Catherine was working before she was married. She chose to live with her parents, as many young single women did back then, regardless of their own capabilities to be completely self-sufficient. All the while she worked she came home to her little dog whom she loved, named “Peppie".

Catherine Green was a traveler. She and her best friends loved horseback riding, especially in New England! Another one of our mother's most memorable trips was her visit to Havana, Cuba! Mom told me of her history of her Irish Maternal Grandfather named Mr. Doyle. He made a good living rolling Cuban Cigars in Boston and New York. How our great-grandfather acquired this skill, we shall never know. Mom said that after the time the U.S. and Cuba denied her access to Havana, where she had so much fun, she and her friend Jean, drove instead to Colorado and Florida, to ride horses NO Doubt! Mom loved horseback riding, Western Style. Through perseverance and her extensive accounting education and employment background, Catherine Green landed an awesome position as Assistant to Roy Windsor of Roy Windsor Productions in Manhattan! Mom said she and he worked very hard together on the accounting and production spending end of the soap opera we all came to love at that time called, "The Secret Storm", among others. Catherine Green was working for Windsor Productions for three years or perhaps 20 years, because the amount of years changed with mom's story.

But one day a friend set her up on a blind date with a man named Stephen Charles Smith, Jr. Their New Year's Eve engagement was magical, according to mom's story and the two were married in May of 1958. Mom was 39 years old. They were wed in the home of our dad's Lutheran Minister while our Nana, our mother's mother, waited outside. You see, my mother was raised a Catholic. Our father was previously married. In today’s world that doesn't matter at all, but back then it was totally unacceptable to the Catholic Church. So our mother followed the rules and permanently gave up communion at mass because of this restriction. Choosing to drive to Colorado on their Honeymoon proved exciting and adventurous for the two of them, and there were plenty of horses for our mom to ride!

About a year and a half later, they had me. Mom was way ahead of her time, having her first child at age 40. You know, when I stared up into my mother’s eyes, she was my whole world (and in her end on this earth, I was hers). Occasionally, my dad's happy face popped into my world and then that of my nana's. All this undivided love and attention was soon to be shared between me, and a new squeaky creature. As an only child at that point, I thought for sure this new bundle of joy was just another gift for ME! And you know what? It turned out he is, and I call him Brother! I immediately discovered I was no longer alone in that world. This competitor of my parents’ affection had a name and he is Stephen Charles Smith, Jr. I remain grateful for him even until this sad day of our mother's remembrance.

Our mother, Catherine Smith was a good mother! She was a good cook who appreciated a clean home. Our mother became deeply involved in Brownies and Cub Scouts! After our Father's sudden death in 1973, mom continued to provide a stable home. She managed to have braces placed on my teeth. She knew my travel experiences to Europe would become an important part of who I've become. So, she sent me to Lisbon, Madrid, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca and Amsterdam when I was 15! Catherine Smith worked late on Friday nights in a bank, but made certain we awoke early Saturday mornings to cheer Stephen on, as he played hockey at Superior Ice Rink in Kings Park, NY. Our mother sent Stephen to Hockey Camp in Great Barrington, Massachusetts to sharpen his already strong skating skills. When my brother returned home that summer he was 20 lbs. lighter!

I have some great memories of mom. Catherine Smith was a good mother. She was a good grandmother too. She loved horses. She loved the colors pink and mauve. Catherine Smith loved Broadway and Sardis. She loved fine china tea cups from England. She baked fine lemon pound cakes. She favored Tanqueray Brand Vodka, Long Island Pindar Vineyard White Zinfandel. Mom swore by Clinique Beauty Products. She loved her green Honda. She was a non-compliant pill taker.

She loved the condo in Patchogue, NY, her apartment at Sienna Village in Smithtown, NY and all the personnel there. I know she would like to thank them, especially Rita. Catherine loved her hair dresser, Michelle. Mom would wish to thank all those at Nesconset Nursing home, especially Kathy Mortensen, Entertainment Activity Specialist, for their love and medical expertise. My mom loved my dog, our two sons James and his girlfriend Becky, Douglas and his girlfriend Sam, my husband Jim, her Granddaughter Kelsey, and her nieces: Fran, Eileen, Kathleen, Patricia, Mary, and Dorothy! Mom looked up to and loved her sister-in -law, Beatrice who was married to mom's late brother, John Green.

Our mother lived an amazing life during her 97+ years. But, even with all she accomplished I think we can all agree that life is short, and we must learn from the lessons of life, and never forget from whence we came.

Catherine Mary Green Smith is an EVERLASTING PRESENCE and an EVOLUTIONARILY SIGNIFICANT LEADER REPRESENTING MY CHILDREN'S GENEALOGY, OPEN MINDEDNESS AND PROGRESSIVE LEGACY. You've come a long way lady!