

## **Gene Smith passed away at 8:50am on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Born in 1920, Gene was part of “The Greatest Generation.” She was a teenager in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania during the Great Depression. She attended Ohio Wesleyan and then worked in Pittsburgh as a Drafts Woman during World War II. In the 1950’s and 1960’s she worked in the fashion industry when women were just getting into the workforce outside the home. She was a runway model, Fashion Director for Gimbles in Pittsburgh, the color girl for the Brown Shoe Company, worked in real estate, and in her later years was an ardent supporter of the Pittsburgh Opera Company. She was on the Opera Board but she was so much more doing everything from leading the backstage tours at the Benedum to having front row seats for every performance! She was famous for hosting parties at her beloved Genoda Farms. Perhaps the most notable being the Pittsburgh Opera Tailgate celebrating director Tito Capobianco’s birthday. She lived independently until she was 99 years old and celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with friends and family on February 14, 2020.

She is survived by: Her son, Jacob Brown and his wife Elizabeth O’Brien, stepson, Gary Smith, MD and his wife Karen Smith, Grandchildren – Shane Brown of Boulder, CO and Katherine Brown of New York City, Great Grandchildren Travis and Kyle Brown both of Boulder, CO.

She was preceded in death by: her son Christopher Brown, sister Rhoda, her parents Hazel and Frank Malone, first husband JK Brown, second husband Herbert Sachs, and third husband Edmund C Smith.

