

Yvonne Elizabeth Smode, age 98, of Lecanto, Florida, passed away at the Vitas Hospice House on Monday, August 26, 2024. She was born on March 22, 1926.

She is survived by her son, Frank Smode (Sharon), her granddaughters, Karin Mosher (Perry) and Leslie Frein (Steve), her brother, Ronald Malinosky and sister-in-law Marilyn Peabody.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 66 years, Dr. Alfred Smode, her parents, John Malinosky and mother Mabel Trosclair, stepfather Harold Trosclair, and her brother Jack Malinosky.

Yvonne was born in Two Harbors, MN. She lived her early years on the Chippewa Reservation in Grand Portage, MN near the Canadian border. Her father was a construction engineer which had her parents, two brothers, and her moving in her pre and early teen years to Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, Panama, and eventually settling in New Orleans. When World War II brought the United States into the conflict Yvonne was able to get her mother's permission to join the Women's Army Corps and became a Medical Corpsman Dental Assistant. She was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base where she met her future husband Alfred Smode, during his B24 pilot training. They maintained close communications as Lt. Smode's B24 hop scotched the Pacific islands on the way to Japan. After the war ended they were married in 1946. In 1948 she gave birth to her only child, Frank. She spent the next years supporting the family life as Al earned his PhD and ultimately became a forerunner in human factors flight psychology.



In the early 1960's Yvonne began her artistic journey with an interest in ceramics, ultimately winning 2nd Place in a Rhode Island State Art Competition for her Indian Head sculpture. Soon thereafter she discovered painting and painted with many well known artists including Bob Ross. She became prolific and well known for her work in oils, water colors, pastels, as well as Pen and Ink. By the 1970's she was teaching art at a private studio in Central Florida.

In the 1980's she began to develop a love of sewing. Her artistic eye soon led her to a deep attachment to the creation of quilts. Over the next 30 years her studio of quilting grew and she produced nearly 200 quilts that are works of art, the majority of which were original and modified designs. By the time she reached her mid 90's health issues finally ended most of her artistic work. She, and her son Frank, wanted to find a way to put her art into a place to promote and foster the love of quilting. Seauxing Seeds Foundation in Covington, LA was the answer to that prayer. Donating her supplies, equipment, and quilts was her final work of art to support this wonderful ministry.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hospice House in Slidell, LA.
<https://thehospicehouse.org/donate%2Fvolunteer>.

Services will include full military honors and will be private.

Arrangements by Brown Funeral Home, Lecanto, FL