



Wilmer Lane Smith

May 4, 1924 - July 1, 2019

A LIFE REMEMBERED

Wilmer Lane Smith of Monroe passed away peacefully at his home on July 1st, 2019 at 95 years of age.

He was born in Talladega, AL. And was raised in Ironaton and Munford, AL. His parents were Harvey Lee Smith and Mary Dewey (Parnell) Smith.

He married his high school sweetheart, Lenora Willodean Smith, in March, 1943 and they celebrated 76 years of marriage this past March, 2019. He leaves behind Willodean and 3 surviving children, Brynda Roth (Frank), Tony L. Smith (Diana) and Pamela Orlandella. Their 4th child, Jeffery C. Smith passed away in May, 2013. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Wilmer was a WW2 veteran and was inducted into the Navy in August, 1943. After training in the Great Lakes, IL., Boston, MA. and San Diego, CA. he was assigned to the U.S.S. Xanthus. For a short time before the ship left port Wilmer and Willodean were fortunate to reside in a retired Navy Commander's home.

After Japan surrendered, the ship was assigned to the North Pacific Force, which occupied northern Japan, beginning September 9th, 1945. The ship

was located in the Honshu Bay at the small port town of Ominato. During this time many weapons were surrendered to the U.S.S. Xanthus and Wilmer was allowed to keep a bayonet.

In December, 1945, the ship was sent to Okinawa, Tokyo and then onto Tsingtao China. In March, 1946, Wilmer returned to the U.S. where he was honorably discharged at Memphis, TN and home to Alabama, where Willodean and daughter were waiting for him.

After the war he attended business college and studied Accounting and Banking and was employed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. in Gadsden, AL. for 10 years. He continued his education in Business Administration through the U. of AL.

His career continued to obtaining a position at Warner Robins AFB, GA. As a cost accountant and a short time later promoted to a Contract Negotiator. And while attending night school, he completed a 2 yr. Executive Development program through U. of GA.

Also, under the sponsorship of the Air Force, he attended school in California on Contract Pricing/Negotiation/Industrial Engineering Time and Motion Study.

In 1962 Wilmer obtained a position at the Air Force Headquarters at the Pentagon.

In 1972 he was made Deputy Chief of Contract Placement at the A.F. Headquarters, the position he held until his retirement in 1983. He had received many meritorious awards during his position there. And at his retirement the Air Force Chief of Staff presented him with the Air Force award for Meritorious Civilian Service.

After his retirement, he did consulting work in Federal Consulting until 1989.

Wilmer had several hobbies, such as woodworking, model railroad collecting and flying. He held a private pilot license, flying occasionally to southern VA., Maryland and locally, when Willodean allowed it as she was extremely afraid of small planes and feared for his safety as well as hers when she felt brave enough to fly with him!

He also developed a very strong interest in genealogy and after extensive research from many established resources (but before Ancestry.Com and many others!) he authored 2 books, titled, "A Smith Family", tracing back his ancestry to a Robert Smith, born in the very early 1600's. These 2 books established a written genealogy, along with pictures and documents showing the migration from the early 1600's to the 1990's, starting in Virginia to Alabama.

Wilmer was also a member of the Sons of the Revolution (SAR) in Virginia and later in Port Charlotte, FL. and held officer's positions in SAR in both states.

Wilmer and Lenora lived in the Northern Virginia area, near D.C for 32 years and Pt. Charlotte, FL. for 16 years before moving to Monroe, GA.

He was an avid Braves fan and looked forward to every game they played. He would check his watch and the schedule to make sure the T.V. on when it was time. And he watched them up until a couple of days before he passed.

Wilmer had a positive outlook on life. Even while in hospice, when someone would ask how he was feeling, he would reply, "I'm fine!" He said that for quite awhile. Later, toward the end, he started saying, " Oh, just so-so!"

Wilmer loved his wife and children and all his family and he was dearly loved and will be greatly missed..

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to:

Longleaf Hospice, 1160 Monticello St. Ste. 20 Covington, GA. 30014

RE: In Memory of: Wilmer L. Smith

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, July 27th, 2019 at 2 PM in the Monroe Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 209 South Hammond Dr., Monroe, GA. 30655. 770-267-2594. You may sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 27. 2:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home Monroe
209 South Hammond Drive
Monroe, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Tim Stewart Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Wilmer Lane Smith*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - July 18, 2019 at 11:19 AM

CM

What a beautiful video and tribute to Mr. Smith. I knew the family for years and this really touches my heart. Godspeed! Rest in Peace, Mr. Smith.

Carlee Metcalfe - July 20, 2019 at 11:36 PM

CM

What a wonderful couple! They shared many, many years of happiness!

Carlee Metcalfe - July 20, 2019 at 11:37 PM

CM

So many, many beautiful pictures! What a story they tell!

Carlee Metcalfe - July 20, 2019 at 11:40 PM

CM

Seeing this is just breathtaking; I cannot say it enough!

Carlee Metcalfe - July 20, 2019 at 11:42 PM



“ *Wilmer Lane Smith*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM

PS

“ Wilmer was excellent "tech support" for me on genealogy. He was always willing to provide insights and humor.

Much love to all,

Paul M. Smith

Columbia, SC

Paul M Smith - October 04, 2019 at 02:42 PM

CM

“ Carlee Metcalfe lit a candle in memory of Wilmer Lane Smith



Carlee Metcalfe - July 20, 2019 at 11:57 PM

CM

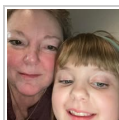
“ I knew the family for many, many years. My Mother was best friends with his wife and his son, Tony & I have been friends for years, too! I remember going to their house when they lived in N. Springfield! I think this was a wonderful way for him to be remembered. Thanks to the family for sharing all the pictures! They were truly enjoyed. Bless all of you and remember that the memories you created with him will ALWAYS be yours to keep FOREVER! With Deepest Sympathy, Carlee Metcalfe

Carlee Metcalfe - July 20, 2019 at 11:56 PM

AS

“ *My Dad was always behind his children when they needed help. He was very strict but very loving. He took care of his children in many ways. He was always there when one of us needed help. As strict as he was, he was very loving of his children. He was the best at taking care of his family. Love you Dad, Tony*

ANTHONY L SMITH - July 20, 2019 at 04:08 PM



Tony I'm a very distant cousin on the Smith side. I came across this obituary while I was trying to find a copy of your dad's book about the Smith family. I'm so sorry for your loss. Phyllis Smith Lockett

Phyllis Lockett - June 07, 2020 at 12:46 AM

FR

“ *My father-in-law, Pappy. I loved this man like my own Dad, He loved so much. My memories include many happy hours watching Braves baseball. Pap loved watching the Braves. He had me research the schedule and print it out. He wrote the scores on those schedules. He also loved watching Wheel of Fortune. He called out the letters and solved most puzzles before the contestants. He told many stories about the past, His life was an adventure, I miss you and wish you well in your future ventures. love Frank.*

Frank - July 19, 2019 at 10:11 PM

LE

“ I cherished this man. I respected all that he stood for. I became his daughter in law nearly 40 years ago and have always loved him as my own Pop. He was such a softie....I'll never forget walking in on him rocking a crying, fussy, teething Dustin in the middle of the night. He had more tears in his eyes than his grandson did. The world lost a good man, but I have no doubt he has joined forces with Jeff - hand in hand, watching over the family that they loved so fiercely.

leslie - July 18, 2019 at 10:21 PM



“ 67 files added to the album Life Tributes



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - July 18, 2019 at 09:52 AM

AS

“ I was so happy to be able to see my Dad two weeks before he passed. The day before I was leaving, he took my hand and said, " Thank you for coming to see me " . I told him: Dad, you dont have to thank me. I will always remember those words.
Rest in Peace Dad. We love you and will miss you. Until we meet again

ANTHONY L SMITH - July 17, 2019 at 10:05 PM