



Gary David Smith

February 9, 1945 - April 17, 2021

Gary David Smith, 76, of Tullahoma, passed from this life on Saturday April 17, 2021, at NHC in Tullahoma. Memorial Services are scheduled for Sunday, April 25 at 1:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Tullahoma. The family will receive friends from 12 PM until the service time.

Smith was born in Salt Lake City, UT, to Winifred Burkhardt and Norman Logan Smith. He spent his childhood in Madison, IN. He first came to Tullahoma in 1963 as a co-op student from the University of Cincinnati. After graduating with a degree in Aerospace Engineering, he joined the ETF Research Branch at Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC). He met and married Mary Alice Norman in 1969. He next moved to the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) as a graduate student, receiving his Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1971. Smith remained at UTSI to lead a research section in the Energy Conversion Program and progressed over his 22 year career to become the Director of the Coal Fired Flow Facility and later the Special Assistant to the Dean.

During this time Smith was one of the founders of the Highland Rim Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and held several important positions at the local, regional and national levels of ASME. For six years he was secretary of the regional operating board overseeing ASME activities in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Smith's

most significant contribution to the society may have been in 1985 when he was an ASME Congressional Fellow and spent the year in Washington, D.C., as a science and engineering advisor to the Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd. Smith was awarded the 1988 ASME Meritorious Service Citation, going on to serve as ASME Regional Vice President and as chairman on ASME's National Membership Development Committee. Smith also served multiple terms on the Coffee County Commission beginning in 1978 and was the chair of the committee tasked with designing the new jail as part of the justice center complex.

Smith left UTSI to become Special Assistant to the Vice President of Research as well as Director of Governmental Relations at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). His ability to raise support and positively influence legislation soon pushed him to the position of Special Assistant to the President of UAH while continuing to lobby the state legislature on behalf of the University of Alabama system.

Smith is survived by his wife Mary Alice, his three siblings Sheri (Randy) Rogers, Peggy (Randy) Swing, and Norman, his two sons Steven (Lisa) and David (Susan), and seven grandchildren Jacob, Tyler, Eden, Brody, Carrie Ella, Burkhardt, and Mary McBride. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents Matilda and Louis Burkhardt and Sarah and Joseph Smith.

Gary will be remembered by his family as a faithful and loyal husband, a supportive and loving father, and as a much beloved Gramps who devoted the last years of his life to his grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to be made in his honor to The Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, www.michaeljfox.org.

Online condolences may be made at www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com.
Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
Tullahoma, TN

Memorial Service

APR **25**. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
Tullahoma, TN

Tribute Wall



“ Gary David Smith

January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ Mary Alice I am so sorry to learn of Gary's passing. You and your family will be in my prayers in the coming days!!

Pat Williams

Pat Williams - April 25, 2021 at 09:11 PM



“ Gary was a special person, he had resolve to do the right things and knew the correct direction to do what is needed for the future. We served together in ASME at the regional and national levels -- Gary did more than be a caretaker of his position in the society, he was diligent in moving the Society forward in being a service to the engineering profession and the members, especially the young engineers. Gary was a great friend and will be sincerely missed.
Dave Wiebe

David Wiebe - April 24, 2021 at 12:47 PM



“ Gary Smith was smart, humorous & supportive. I had the good fortune to come in contact with him when I worked at UTSI many years ago. Our prayers go out to his wife, Mary Alice, a long time friend, and all his family. God Bless Gary Smith.

R.J. and Sande Hayes

Sande Hayes - April 22, 2021 at 05:10 PM

EK

“ *As a fellow UC grad and co-worker sorry to hear about Gary's passing. Ed and Linda Kraft*

Ed Kraft - April 22, 2021 at 02:59 PM

BC

“ *We are so sorry for your loss! You and your family are in our prayers. Love Bettye and Dan Cowles*

Bettye Cowles - April 22, 2021 at 11:11 AM

MA

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Gary Smith family from Mary Ann and Gerald Allen.*

Mary Ann and Gerald Allen - April 22, 2021 at 10:37 AM

CF

“ *Coca-Cola North America Finance purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Gary David Smith.*



Coca-Cola North America Finance - April 21, 2021 at 03:56 PM

KP

“ *Mary Alice, our prayers are for your peace and comfort. Gary is a remarkable person who leaves a great legacy to his family. Kathy and Tom Puckett*

Kathy Puckett - April 20, 2021 at 10:20 PM

PG

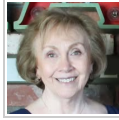
Mary Alice I'm so sorry. Prayers and hugs!

Pat Gaddis - April 21, 2021 at 09:16 PM

JR

Linda and I had planned to come to service but we are both no feeling well. Your family in in our prayers. Joe and Linda Ray

Joe & Linda Ray - April 25, 2021 at 09:27 AM



*So sorry to hear about the passing of Gary. Please know that we share in your sorrow and pray for comfort and healing for your family.
Carol Helton*

Carol Helton - April 27, 2021 at 12:27 PM

BL

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. Condolences to Mary Alice, Steven and David and their families during this difficult time.
Butch & Nancy Langford*



Butch & Nancy Langford - April 20, 2021 at 02:13 PM