

John C Smith

JUL 17, 1929 - JUL 11, 2020

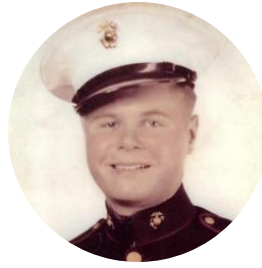


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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 4
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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JOHN CALVIN SMITH was born on July 17, 1929 in Woodbury, New Jersey, the youngest child of Victoria Alice Smith and Raymond James Smith. He went to be with the Lord on July 11, 2020. He is survived by his loving wife of sixty-nine years, Joanne Aileen Smith, five daughters: Carolyn Jean Smith (Richard Daughy) of Pinellas Park, FL, Deborah Ann Holly, deceased, (Jay) of St. Petersburg, FL, Betsy June Heard (Steve) of Largo, FL, Nancy Jeanine Barbara of St. Petersburg, FL, and Victoria Ruth Geisler, Tori, of St. Petersburg, FL. Seven grandchildren: Heather Holly, Nathan Holly, Sky Barbara (deceased), Maxwell Heard, Brooklyn Barbara, Richard Luecke, and Logan Geisler. Four great grandchildren: Haley Holly, Hannah Holly, Baylee Feinburg and Braelyn Feinburg. Two great, great grandchildren: Jeselyn and Jaylyn.

At the age of five, John's family moved to Florida where he graduated from St Pete High School in 1947. He was active in sports, running track and playing football. He joined the Marines right out of high school, returning to his home in St. Petersburg in 1950 where he met his lovely wife, Joanne. After a whirlwind courtship John and Joanne were married on September 11, 1950. John spent the next sixty-nine years supporting his beautiful daughters and devoted wife. During this time, he worked at Florida Power, now Duke Energy, for forty-two years, where he became Division Meter man over Pinellas County. John also worked for twenty-two years at Derby Lane Dog Track.

John loved the outdoors where he enjoyed fishing, cast netting, scalloping and shrimping. He became known as THE SHRIMP KING. He loved nothing better than a fried shrimp dinner. Among his accomplishments he built a smokehouse to smoke mullet for the neighborhood. It was said that his smoked mullet was better than Ted Peters.

John spent many hours gardening for he had a green thumb. He loved walking for exercise. John lived a good life in his beloved St. Petersburg. My dear John, you will be missed.




Events

John C Smith

JUL 17, 1929 - JUL 11, 2020

Visitation


 **Thursday**, July 23, 2020

 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM ET


 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory**
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709



Funeral Service

 **Thursday**, July 23, 2020

 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM ET

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory**
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709





Tribute Wall

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BH

Betsy Heard posted:

One day, as we walked, we talked of the early days at good old Norwood Baptist church. I love the pictures of Carolyn, Debby and I, stair steps, in our Sunday best, headed off to church. Bonnets, gloves, frilly dresses. the works. Mom and Dad both taught Sunday school early on. We reminisced about the kids he taught, and pastors that came and went, when, seemingly, out of the blue, he comes out with a scripture I can only surmise he had memorized some 60 years ago when he was teaching SS for there were memory verses to be memorized in SS and far be it from Dad to require of his kids that which he did not require of himself. This was the second time I had heard Dad quote this verse. Once, a year or so prior when Mom and Ricky and I were together with him and, then again. The verse was from John 14. Jesus is speaking. "In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, would I have told you I go and prepare a place for you. And when I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you unto myself, that where I am you may be also," "I CAN NOT imagine a more comforting scripture than this. It touches my heart to know that The Holy Spirit would bring this verse to his mind after some 60 years lying in wait to comfort him... at this time... in his life. That still small whisper, "John, I go and prepare a place you and I will come again and take you unto myself, that where I am you may be also." I have a vision of Dad in majestic surroundings. He is in his prime. He is healthy, handsome and happy. And he is laughing. He is happy and laughing and in this, my heart is glad. Dad, I want to thank you for the lifetime of love and support you gave me. For a great upbringing and a firm foundation. You always welcomed my friends into our home and as part of our family. You will live on in the fondest of my memories and in the memories of themany, many lives you have touched. Thank you for being such a great Father, Mentor and Friend. I Love you Dad
Daughter Betsy

July 24 at 7:40 AM

SJ

Susie Jamsky posted:

My grandmother called him 'John Dawlin' in her very Georgia-born accent; and that he was! A good friend to my Dad (Dick Mahoney) and our family. I will always remember his taking the time to recognize each of us, children, whenever he came around; and there was ALWAYS a lot of laughing going on when our parents got together. I know you all will miss him. Love and Prayers to your family.
Susie (Mahoney) Jamsky

July 23 at 5:11 AM



Tribute Wall

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PG

Philip Garrett posted:

I have been very blessed to have been one of John's shrimping partners for over 25 years; He changed my life when he taught me how to catch shrimp. During this time we became great friends and he made me feel like part of his great family. In 2005 we had a great time catching Jumbos in July, around his birthday. He said it was the first time he ever caught big shrimp on his birthday. I will surely miss my friend and shrimping partner, but know we will meet again someday in the great shrimping grounds. So here is a final YO to you my friend, Big Shrimp.Little Shrimp

July 23 at 5:06 AM

BB

Beth Butler posted:

Carolyn's DadI really only met Carolyn's dad a few times, but she and I have been such close friends that I've heard many of the stories and followed the course of the lives of the Smith family for almost 50 years. It's been a rough road, anyone who knows them will agree, but there has always been joy in the Smith household and much to celebrate across the generations. I have learned many lessons from the Smiths, in addition to relying on Carolyn for health care advice and general well being. When John and I first met, I was building a small cottage in the woods, a modified pole house, built off the ground on a telephone pole foundation. He strongly advised me against this plan as he truly was an expert on telephone poles. I, of course, thought I knew everything since I had read a book, and foolishly failed to take his advice. We now, needless to say, are replacing those 40 year old poles and that is not easy underneath your house. I am so sorry I didn't get to share that with him before he passed, as I am sure it would have given him great pleasure to hear my admission. He was a man of abundance, particularly regarding seafood and citrus. Seems he had a knack for things like fishing and shrimping and gardening, among others. What's more, he always had enough to share. I have actually been on the receiving end of that generosity as even as far away as Tallahassee, I managed to come home with tangerines and other tropical delights. A proud Veteran, one of my favorite stories was how much it meant to John when a stranger offered to buy his dinner at a restaurant. John was wearing his Marine ball cap and was recognized by another restaurant customer. It was my impression that it wasn't about the bill or how much it had cost, but rather his pride in his service and appreciation for being acknowledged. He was the father of five daughters and they all adored him. Later in life he took on another role as a father to a boy who has become a fine young man. Finally a football player! You know he loved every minute of his boy on that field. He set a fine example for us, we never know when we'll be called on to take on a new responsibility. He taught me the importance of carrying on with family get togethers and celebrations whether everyone appears to be following the action or not. He was a keen observer and the times together as a family held deep meaning, whether or not it was always expressed. I am grateful for your lessons, even if you did not know you were teaching us. A life well lived, given to the love and care of his family and many friends, I salute you John Smith and the fine person you always were. Beth Butler July 2020

July 22 at 7:50 PM



Tribute Wall

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CS

Carolyn Smith posted:

Today begins the next step in my journey of life without Dad. Dad loved his family, St Petersburg and the Gators. He was one of the hardest working people I've ever known. He taught me so much. The multiplication tables, riding a bike, how to present myself for a job interview, shelling for olives, cleaning a fish and hundreds of other things. I will carry his memory close to my heart forever.

July 23 at 2:17 AM

KG

Karen Gilhooly posted:

Aunt Joanne, I'm so sorry to hear about Uncle John passing away. You've spent so many happy years together and have a beautiful family. Prayers for you during this difficult time. ❤️ Carolyn, Betsy, Nancy & Tori, hugs and prayers to all of you. It is very hard to lose a father. I hope you all find comfort in happy memories. ❤️ Memories I have of my Uncle John....he really liked to tease just about everyone! He liked to call me a Yankee and made fun of my sunburn.

July 22 at 7:50 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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