



Ralph O. Smith

June 11, 1926 - December 15, 2010

Ralph O. Smith passed away at his home in West Lafayette, Indiana on Wednesday, December 15, 2010. He was born June 11, 1926 in Rensselaer, Indiana, the son of Ralph Raymond and Alice (Owen) Smith. He was a lifetime resident of Rensselaer before moving to West Lafayette earlier this year. Ralph graduated with the class of 1944 from Rensselaer High School. He attended St. Joseph College in Rensselaer and received his Bachelor of Arts in Business from Hanover College in 1950. Ralph was a certified public accountant and owned and operated many businesses throughout his career. He served in the United States Army with the 187th Glider Infantry as a paratrooper from 1944-1946. Ralph was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Rensselaer, the Sigma Chi Fraternity at Hanover College and a past member of the Rensselaer Rotary. He earned his private pilot's license in 1953. On July 23, 1961, in Chicago, Illinois Ralph married Donna L. Johnson who survives. Ralph was a humble, generous, loving man of integrity. He was a father-figure to many who sought his wise counsel. Even in his last moments, he handled himself with characteristic selflessness and grace. We will miss him dearly. Surviving with his loving wife Donna are two daughters, Michelle (Dr. Nick) Costidakis of Brookston, IN and Kimberly (Jason) Rudder of San Ramon, CA; three grandchildren, Christopher, Micaelah and Avery and 10 brothers and sisters, Stella Groom, Rensselaer, Betty (Harold) Benson, Edmore, MI, Harold Smith, Crescent City, FL, John (Wilma) Smith, Rensselaer, Jeanette (Ernie) Randolph, Rensselaer, Robert (Nancy) Smith,

Wheatfield, Floyd (Peggy) Smith, Stone Mountain, GA, Linda Gangsei, Buffalo Center, IA, Larry (Kay) Smith, Sarasota, FL and Nancy Patton, Indianapolis, IN. Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and one sister.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer

250 N. McKinley Avenue

P.O. Box 70

Rensselaer, IN 47978

(219) 866-5123

info@jacksonfuneral.com

<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Donna,
Sorry for your loss. I know you are grateful for all the time you spent with him. You have always been there for others and I pray that you now feel the comfort of friends.

Love to you and family,
Sue and Bill Kaye###imported-begin###Sue Kaye###imported-end###

December 19, 2010 at 09:39 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
In deepest sympathy,
The McLean Family###imported-begin###Dennis, Jennifer, Ryan, &
Amy McLean###imported-end###

December 17, 2010 at 07:40 PM



“ After hearing of Ralph's death and before reading his loving obituary, I thought back to the many things I learned while employed by him and my appreciation for the opportunity he gave me. Ralph was a man of integrity and always stressed the value of keeping one's word. Among his other attributes, he was a good boss.

My thoughts are with Donna, his children and their families, John, Stella, and the other members of his large family. I know he will be missed.###imported-begin###David McClatchey###imported-end###

December 17, 2010 at 03:56 PM



“ Donna,
So sorry for your loss.
We lost a good friend.
With Deepest Sympathy
Love, Joyce##imported-begin##Joyce Amsler##imported-end##

December 17, 2010 at 01:39 PM



“ Although I haven't seen you for some time Carol and Jim have kept me informed about Ralph and ALL of your suffering with and for him. My thoughts and prayers are with you Donna. Sincerely,
Eileen##imported-begin##Eileen Studer##imported-end##

December 17, 2010 at 12:20 PM



“ To the Smith Family...Wishing the many fond memories of Ralph will bring you comfort and peace at this sad time. He truly was a gentle soul.##imported-begin##Costas & Shawn Hadjisavvas##imported-end##

December 17, 2010 at 01:32 AM



“ Donna, we were so sorry to hear of Ralph's death. He was a fine man and a very good neighbor for a long time. We send sincere condolences to you and your family and will hold you in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Bob and Bev Randle##imported-end##

December 16, 2010 at 07:59 PM



“ Donna: I will miss Smitty as one of my oldest and dearest friends. Although we lost touch with each other through the later years, I remember him fondly.##imported-begin##Kathryn E. (Betty) Holland##imported-end##

December 16, 2010 at 06:22 PM



“ Dear family, Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with you. Ralph was more than a friend he was family. His memories will always be with us because he gave our family his eldest daughter in which we will always be grateful. May Ralph rest in peace and may God give you strength. Love Perry, Elaine and YiaYia Costidakis##imported-begin##Perry, Elaine, & Despina Costidakis##imported-end##

December 16, 2010 at 06:10 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Don & Gloria Waymouth##imported-end##

December 16, 2010 at 05:56 PM



“ Donna, we are praying for you and your family during these difficult days. Ralph was a special friend to Tom and I and we will miss him!##imported-begin##Denise Gillespie##imported-end##

December 16, 2010 at 07:12 AM



“ Donna, devastated to hear about Ralph. He is a good friend and we will miss him very, very much. I just purchased my ticket to return to Indiana for the service. See you soon. Love, Howard###imported-begin###Howard and Sharon###imported-end##

December 15, 2010 at 11:13 PM



“ Dear Donna, We are so sorry to hear about Ralph, he will be missed. You and your family are in our prayers. Love, Norm & Mary Putt###imported-begin###Mary Putt###imported-end##

December 15, 2010 at 08:41 PM



“ We are sorry to hear about Ralph. We send our sympathy to Donna and the girls. I played a lot of basketball with Ralph when we were in high school. He will be missed. Bethel and Ken###imported-begin###Ken and Bethel Ford###imported-end##

December 15, 2010 at 08:16 PM