



Carey F. Smith

August 25, 1942 - July 5, 2020

Carey Franklin Smith of Pawleys Island, SC, passed away July 5, 2020 at the age of 77.

Carey was born in 1942 in Greenville, South Carolina to the late Harry and Frances Smith. His family resided in the nearby City of Greer where he attended Greer public schools. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He later earned his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Georgia. After beginning his career with the Greenville Hospital System, he went on to a career in municipal management beginning in Spartanburg and following graduate school, to the cities of Dillon, North Augusta, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina between the years of 1968 and 1984. His resume gained the notice of the resort town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The town was looking for its first ever Town Manager, and Carey was the perfect fit. He served as Hilton Head Town Manager for over six years. After working for a private firm, he returned to local government in 1990 when he became City Manager in Tarpon Springs, Florida. In 1994, he was offered the position of City Manager in Daytona Beach, Florida, where he served for over eight and a half years until coming to Rock Hill in April 2002.

After retiring from Rock Hill, South Carolina, Carey was interim managers for Hardeeville, South Carolina and Georgetown, South Carolina, where he served as interim for two terms. Carey and his wife, Joan were beach lovers and moved to retire in Pawleys Island. Carey received many honors in his

over 40 years of Public Service, was the recipient of Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary and President of South Carolina City Managers Association in the 80's. He was always an active member in International City Managers Association and National League of Cities where he received many honors.

He enjoyed tennis, fishing, reading, beach walks and shagging. He was an active member in church as a deacon and choir member throughout his life and most recently was a member of Duncan United Methodist in Georgetown, SC.

Carey is survived by his loving wife, Joan Byars Smith of 54 years. They were married at Fulton Presbyterian Church on February 5, 1966. Also surviving are his sons, Carey Smith II and C. Scott Smith (Robin); brother, Dr. James Ronald Smith; many loving nieces and nephews; brother and sisters-in-law; and a special mother-in-law, Katherine Byars. He loved and adored their four grandchildren, Slater Jay Smith of Lubbock, Texas, Caleb Wade Smith, Ruby Julia Smith and Michael Scott Smith of Birmingham, Alabama.

He was predeceased by his sister, Pamela E. Harrill.

A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at Howard Auditorium in Georgetown, South Carolina.

A funeral service will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2020 at The Wood Mortuary in Greer, South Carolina and may be viewed via webcast at www.thewoodmortuary.com. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Greer, South Carolina.

Memorials may be made to The Citadel Alumni Association, Salvation Army or charity of one's choice.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery

303 North Avenue
Greer, SC 29650

Previous Events

Webcast Service

JUL 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

THE WOOD MORTUARY CHAPEL
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Tribute Wall



“ *The Wood Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Carey F. Smith*



The Wood Mortuary - July 07, 2020 at 11:50 AM

CH

“ *Dear Joan, Carey & Scott:
So sorry to read of Carey's passing in our Island Packet. It seems like just a couple of years ago that we attended many soccer games with lots of "no-see-ums" or rain or freezing wind. I have thought about all of you in the past years and wondered where you were. Kurt passed away almost 4 years ago but I am still in my house in Port Royal with my little dog and 2 new cats. It would be so nice to see you again.*

I know you have many cherished memories of husband and father. May God give you comfort and peace.

*Sincerely,
Connie Herrman*

Connie Herrman - July 21, 2020 at 03:03 PM

BP

“ Carey and I were city managers together in the early 1990s when he was in Tarpon Springs and I was in Safety Harbor FK. His humor, local government knowledge and support will always be remembered!

He & Joan were a highlight at annual ICMA conferenceS; still Remember Ohio during Octoberfest . A very Fun, sweet couple — he will be missed.

Brangaccio Pamela - July 20, 2020 at 07:54 PM

BW

“ Joan and family, Pam and I were very saddened to hear of Cary,s passing.

When you moved to Daytona, we struck up a friendship that was easy, as we both wear the Ring. Although we lost touch when you all left for Rock Hill, we did run into each at our 5 year reunions and we were always delighted to see you both.

We had great respect for you both, based on friendship as well as business. The world was a better place with Cary, but join others in knowing we will see each other again some day. Please know that we are praying for you as you all go through this difficult time.

Thoughts and prayers, Bob & Pam Wilson

Bob Wilson - July 20, 2020 at 11:34 AM

RR

“ Joan & Family,

I am so sorry to hear of Carey's passing. He was a good man and you were such a fun and attractive couple. I remember you guys from many FCCMA conferences we attended together in Florida.

I Just lost my wife, Phyllis of 41 years, so I know what you are going through.

Much love,

Ron Rabun

Ron Rabun - July 19, 2020 at 06:24 AM

JM

“ Dear Joan and family,

I just heard about Carey. I live on Seabrook Island now. Just wanted to send you my best and tell you how much Rich and I enjoyed doing things with you all at the city managers conferences. Seems a life time ago, but very fond memories. I'll be thinking of you and hope that our paths might cross again some day.

Jane Marvin

jane marvin - July 17, 2020 at 09:00 PM

JO

Happy to hear from you and Rich. I remember some fun trips and playing tennis in HH when we lived there. Thank you for kind words — it has been surreal and so unexpected. Love to see you sometime

joan - August 20, 2020 at 04:59 PM

MF

“ Carey Smith was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. His vision, skill and understanding of the human condition made him a force to be reckoned with and enabled him to enrich many lives. He TRULY did God's work. Rest in peace Carey. I will always be grateful for your faith in me. Mary DiFabio Foote



Mary DiFabio Foote - July 16, 2020 at 11:47 PM

ML

“ Carey hired me for an internship in the City Manager's office in Myrtle Beach in 1983 which helped me get my start in what has been and continues to be a very rewarding career in public service. Although I only work for him for several months he provided some very valuable advice and served as a role model for a professional local government manager. I will always be grateful for the opportunity that Carey gave me and I always enjoyed talking with him at SCCCMA meetings.

Marty Lawing

Marty Lawing - July 16, 2020 at 12:32 PM

JT

“ Carey hired me in 1980 as Planning Director in Myrtle Beach, before he had actually started his job there. He interviewed me in my hotel room in Augusta and took a chance on a very young planner. He was a great role model and i learned an incredible amount from him in our 3 short years together. i always admired his commitment to family and the community and seeing him in the choir on Sunday.

jim tolbert - July 14, 2020 at 02:51 PM

PS

“ Carey offered me the job of fire chief in Daytona Beach in the summer of 1996. During our years working together, I was impressed by his deliberate way, steady hand, and always discharging his duties as our city manager with integrity and professionalism. Please accept my condolences on the passing of a good man, husband, and father. I'll be forever grateful to him.

Paul Skinner - July 13, 2020 at 08:55 AM

BW

“ Pam and I just learned of Carey's passing with sadness, but also with joy because we know it is a "home going" to be with Jesus! We loved playing tennis and watching your boys grow up on Hilton Head. Joan, you will all be in our prayers in the days that lie ahead. Blessings,
Bobby and Pam Welch

Bobby Welch - July 12, 2020 at 10:28 AM

JO

Thank you for your kind note — it is still unbelievable and so sudden. Would love to see you all sometime . We had some fun times and he loved our tennis times together . Call In phone book in Pawleys Island .

joan - August 20, 2020 at 05:02 PM

BC

“ Beautiful service

Bill / Leslie Childers - July 11, 2020 at 02:58 PM

RB

“ Joan- Belle and I express our deepest sympathy-we'll miss our annual visits at Pawleys-Love Ronnie and Belle Bruce

Ronnie Bruce - July 11, 2020 at 11:15 AM

FE

“ We are very saddened by the sudden tragic passing of my classmate Carey. Having lived for years in towns where he was the administrator, the respect for him was so obvious. Carey was one of the “good guys” who tried to always do the right thing all the time. He will be sorely missed by many!.....Fred & Bonnie Ellis, '64, Pawleys Island

Fred Ellis - July 11, 2020 at 10:21 AM

EH

“ I'm very sorry to hear of Mr. Smith's passing. My prayers and thoughts are with you and the family. I'll always remember how Mr. Smith was the smoothest driver when he took Scott and I to different places in the earlier years on HHIs. Much love to the Smith family, Eric Herrman

Eric Herrman - July 10, 2020 at 10:14 PM

BC

“ Posted this on Joan's Facebook. Thought I would repeat it here as well.
Joan:
Bill and I saw your wonderful tribute to Carey. We are going to miss seeing his sweet smile every year at the reunion. He was an extraordinary man and will be missed in this ordinary old world. But we know that he is enjoying his reward in heaven right now. God bless and keep you and your family. Remember that our eventual reunion with those we love will be a joyous, wonderful and eternal occasion. We Love You!
Billy and Leslie Childers

Bill and Leslie Childers - July 10, 2020 at 09:07 PM

TF

“ *The Ball Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Carey F. Smith.*



The Ball Family - July 10, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Carey F. Smith.*



July 10, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carey F. Smith.*



July 09, 2020 at 01:01 PM

SR

“ *Joan, So sorry to hear of Carey's passing. I so enjoyed getting to know you both. Carey's knowledge and wisdom from his time as the first Town Manager for Hilton Head Island certainly benefited me in when I served the Town some years later. Steve Riley*

Steve Riley - July 08, 2020 at 05:36 PM

KO

“ Joan,
I am so sorry to hear of Carey's unexpected passing. I enjoyed working with him and I enjoyed seeing you both at RHTC. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Kim Ozmon

Kim Ozmon - July 08, 2020 at 02:20 PM

DK

“ Joan: Beth and I were saddened to learn of Carey's Passing. As a fellow Citadel cadet Carey and I always had a lot to talk about. I remember Myrtle Beach and those SCCCMA meetings and inland waterway dinner cruise's. You and Carey could really shag. Carey was a good professional serving many towns in his career. He will be missed, May God Bless you and your family and Carey for a life well lived.
Dave and Beth Krumwiede, Citadel '65



David Krumwiede - July 08, 2020 at 01:26 PM

YF

“ Your PUMA Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Carey F. Smith.



Your PUMA Family - July 08, 2020 at 01:04 PM

EF

“ I talk to him often as a neighbor. He had an infectious smile. He would light up when he saw our German Shepherd. I will miss him

Edward Ferraro - July 08, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Carey F. Smith.*



July 08, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ *Joan.. So sorry to hear of Carey's passing. He was a good man, fine boss and leader for the Daytona Beach community. We wish you and your family the best! Owen and Joan Davidson*

owen davidson - July 08, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ *Dear Joan,
We were so very sorry to hear of the passing of Carey, and also shocked to hear the sad news. He was always such a lively & capable person that it is difficult to comprehend this news. Buck and I will forever have many fond memories of the four of us having fun together, both on and off the tennis courts. We missed all of you when you moved from North Augusta. We send our condolences and love to you and family, and will be praying for God to provide you with strength and peace for the coming days.*

Carol & Eric "Buck" Thompson

Carol Thompson - July 07, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Steve McManus - July 07, 2020 at 12:48 PM

R'

“ *Carey was a great classmate and fellow Political Science major. I never remember seeing Carey these last sixty years without a smile and a friendly greeting. He will never be forgotten.*

Ron Plunkett, '64 - July 07, 2020 at 12:36 PM