



Senator J. Verne Smith

January 15, 1925 - December 17, 2006

Heading: Senator J. Verne Smith (Veteran)

Dateline: Greer

Senator J. Verne Smith died Sunday morning December 17, 2006 at his home in Greer. His death relieved him of the suffering he had endured for the last eighteen months from M.D.S., a condition of the bone marrow which greatly reduces the number of healthy blood cells.

Senator Smith was born on January 15, 1925, the son of the late Jefferson Verne Smith and Lillian Farley Smith. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two sisters, Nelle Smith Dillard and Frances Smith Wallace, and one brother, W. Thomas Smith.

His beloved wife of 59 years, Jean Myers Smith passed away 29 days before Senator Smith.

He is survived by one son, Jefferson V. Smith, Jr. and his wife, Sallie of Greer; one daughter, Carole Jean Smith Olmert and her husband, Henley of Greer; grandchildren, Jefferson Ashley Olmert and wife, Susannah Sigaloff Olmert, Travis Verne Olmert and wife, Jennifer Ross Olmert, Capt. Edmund Bradley Hipp and wife, Heather Lohr Hipp, Eve Darrington Hipp and Catherine Olmert Hipp; a great-grandson, Timothy Alexander Olmert; and a sister, Lillian Smith Brooks of Chester.

Senator Smith was an Eagle Scout, an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, a World War II Veteran, and the majority shareholder in the Tire Exchange Corporations of Greer, Mauldin, and Simpsonville. He served in the South

Carolina State Senate longer than any other Senator in the history of Greenville County. He was honored for his service by hundreds of organizations and agencies, as well as the thousands of people he helped. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Greer, conducted by Rev. Brandi Casto-Waters, Rev. Wayne Cole, and Rev. Ray White. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 1:30p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the social hall of First Presbyterian Church, Greer. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 101 School Street, Greer, S.C. 29651. Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **20**. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Greer
100 School Street
Greer, SC 29651

Service

DEC **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Greer
100 School Street
Greer, SC 29651

Tribute Wall

BW

“ As a kid, I remember talking to him many times. His backyard was connected to my grandmother's backyard, and when I was outside swimming or playing he would always make sure to wave, say hi, and ask how we were doing. He was a very kind and goodhearted man.

Billy Woodward - March 24, 2018 at 09:41 AM



“ We never meet the Senator but I talked to him 2 times on the phone. I had a problem and he listened patiently and then advised me of what to do. He was kind and very very nice. You have lost a parent but South Carolina has lost a friend. May God be with you.##imported-begin##Bob and Sheryl Walters##imported-end##

December 22, 2006 at 07:49 AM



“ My love and heartfelt sympathy goes out to all in the Smith family. God threw away the mold after he made Verne. He had done His job perfectly. Verne was not only my wonderful Senator, but he was my beloved friend as well. I consider all the Smiths as my 'cuddins' and Verne and Jean were my third set of grandparents. The hole in my heart is huge because of their passing; I can only guess how much Carole and Jeff, and their families are suffering! Just know you have my love and my prayers, as always. May God hold each of you - and all of us who miss Jean and Verne - in His Holy Hand.##imported-begin##SARAH WAKEFIELD MCINTYRE##imported-end##

December 21, 2006 at 09:13 PM



“ I AM VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF THE PASSING OF THE SENATOR SMITH. WITH GREAT SYMPATHY TO YOUR FAMILY AT THIS TIME. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT GOD WILL SOON SWALLOW UP DEATH AND DEATH WILL BE A THING OF THE PASS AND HE WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM ALL FACES AND YOU AND I WILL NOT HAVE TO FEEL THE HURT AND PAIN THAT WE FEEL WHEN WE LOOSE A LOVE ONE IN DEATH. (ISAIAH 25:8) JESUS CHRIST WILL CALL ON ALL THOSE THAT ARE IN THEIR MEMORIAL TOMBS TO COME OUT TO A RESURRECTION OF LIFE TO LIVE AGAIN.(JOHN 5:28,29) YOU WILL SEE YOUR LOVE ONE AGAIN. FROM A NORTH CAROLINA NEIGHBOR###imported-begin##DONNA CARTER###imported-end##

December 21, 2006 at 12:12 PM



“ The family is in our prayers. God will be with you each day. God will guide you every step of the way. You are not alone.###imported-begin##Ted and Susan Lindsay###imported-end##

December 20, 2006 at 07:19 PM



“ Words cannot express what our hearts feel for your family at this time. Please know we are here for you, and will keep you in our prayers.
Love, Keith & Donna Smith###imported-begin##Donna O. Smith###imported-end##

December 20, 2006 at 01:47 PM



“ Our prayers and thoughts go out to each of the family at these times. From the family of James Maude Burnett.##imported-begin##John J Burnett##imported-end##

December 20, 2006 at 01:06 PM



“ (formerly Gail H. Byars)##imported-begin##Gail S. Highsmith##imported-end##

December 20, 2006 at 12:47 PM



“ Our sincere condolences, to the Smith Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless.##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Steven Howard##imported-end##

December 20, 2006 at 06:39 AM



“ May God give you the courage to accept the lost of a great man, husband, father and senator. Words can never express the love and hard work of your father whose earthly journey is now complete and he will enjoy the reunion with Mrs. Smith. May God continue to bless and keep you.##imported-begin##Harriet Gardin Fields, LPC/S, NCC/C##imported-end##

December 19, 2006 at 11:58 PM



“ From one of your old Presbyterian College roommates. One of my fondest memories of Verne was the day he brought an employee to my office for examination during which he answered the office phone calls while the receptionist was at lunch. There won't be another Verne.##imported-begin##The Dr. George Wilkinson Family##imported-end##

December 19, 2006 at 11:02 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you as we share in your loss and grief. "The tallest tree in the forest has fallen." Mortal man must pass away, but Senator Smith will never die. You are fortunate to have had such wonderful parents, and our lives were changed and enhanced by their genuine friendship.
The Mann Batson Family##imported-begin##The Mann Batson Family##imported-end##

December 19, 2006 at 06:37 PM



“ To the Senator's Family:

When I was director of the SC Dept of Archives and History from 1987 to 1996, I worked closely with "Senator History," as I called him, to create a new History Center and State Archives for the people of South Carolina. As the first Yankee ever put in charge of SC's history programs, I was the subject of much teasing and "education." The senator called me in every year like clockwork for an "accent check"--the last time pronouncing me "better, but you gonna have to work on your 'zacklies.'" (That's 'zackly' as in "that's zackly right.") We had a lot of fun working with Billy Boan and others to get the funding in place for the Center, and when it happened, it happened in the South Carolina way: all cash, all \$20 million of it. The beautiful History Center building stands as a wonderful tribute to Verne Smith, and everyone who visits should make a mental tip of the hat to one of the best public servants who ever graced the State Capitol.

George Vogt

Executive Director

Oregon Historical Society###imported-begin###Dr. George L. Vogt###imported-end###

December 19, 2006 at 01:48 PM



“ Verne and I were elected to the SC Senate together in 1972. I got to know him and his family over the next 12 years that we served together. He was a wonderful man, a devoted husband and a true friend. My sincere condolences to his family.

Sincerely,

Dewey Wise###imported-begin###T. Dewey Wise###imported-end###

December 19, 2006 at 07:06 AM



“ Carole and Jeff,

Sorry to hear about your father's death. I admired both of your parents when I knew them at First Presbyterian Church when I was younger. I enjoyed visiting your father's tire store when we were in kindergarten Carole, I still have the group picture of our kindergarten class taken on the steps of First Baptist Church. I remember when your father let my father, my brother and I stand in the bed of his pickup with your aunt to watch the Christmas Parade. I believe he also played Santa Claus at one of the church's family night suppers.

I used to work at my company's radio station in Rock Hill. At election time, I would interview the candidates. Those who served in the legislature with your father always had kind words to say about "Daddy Verne".

Both of my parents died in the 1970's so I know how it is for those whose parents have died. Even though I haven't seen you in over 40 years, I still have fond memories of my friends at First Presbyterian Church. You are certainly among them. May God bless you in your time of sorrow!!###imported-begin##Brant Hart##imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 01:36 PM



“ My family and I are so saddened to hear the news of Sen. Smith's passing, as we were when Mrs. Smith passed. Sen. Smith was a long time friend to our family, when our mother was killed in 1957, he came to my dad, and let him know that if there were ever anything that he could do to help my dad, he was there for him. He proved that through all the years my dad was alive. At the passing of our dad, Sen. Smith was there, and we will never forget it, he took all six of us and hugged us all at one time. He let us know too that he was there for us. This state, city, and the entire Anderson family will miss him, and we have lost a true friend, and a God loving man. Our prayers are with his and Mrs. Smith's family.

May God Bless and keep you,

Teresa Anderson Quinn###imported-begin##Teresa Anderson Quinn###imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 01:00 PM



“ Jeff, Sallie and family,
Our prayers go out to you during this time and we are sure that God will comfort you. Your friend,
Wayne###imported-begin##Wayne Foster###imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 12:42 PM



“ Jeff and Carol: Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Hold tight to your memories, death cannot take them away. God Bless!###imported-begin##Dale and Mary Susan (Woodruff) Pearson###imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 12:07 PM



“ *Jeff and Sally:*

Mother and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. It is with sincere sympathy and condolences that we send this message to you. We will keep you in our prayers and thoughts.##imported-begin##Joyce and Char Johnson##imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 10:06 AM



“ *To the Smith Family. I offer my deepest sympathy in the passing of Ole' Verne.*

I considered him a great friend and the last time I talked with him was at The Tire Exchange in Mauldin. He was still the same, wonderful man that I remembered growing up in Greer. I remember him most for his work with the Boy Scouts in the Greer area while I was a scout on the mill village at Victor. Our prayers are with the family and I will always remember the Smiths and especially Ole' Verne.

Doug Wilson

Mauldin SC##imported-begin##Douglas Wilson##imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 09:44 AM



“ *To the Smith Family,
I am so sorry for your loss. May God bless you all and hold you in
the palm of his hand thru this difficult time in your lives.*

*I knew Ashley in middle school and know Jeff thru the Tennessee
Walking Horse business.*

Again, may God be with you all during this difficult tiem.

*Loren Lollis Hawkins##imported-begin##Loren Lollis
Hawkins##imported-end##*

December 18, 2006 at 09:23 AM



“ *Dear Smith Family,
American Legion Post 200, Boiling Springs, SC sends deepest
sympathies on your loss. We will mourn the loss of our fellow
veteran and a leader in our community.*

*Sincerely,
David Stephens
American Legion Post 200
P.O. Box 160021*

*Boiling Springs, SC 29316##imported-begin##DAVID
STEPHENS##imported-end##*

December 18, 2006 at 08:08 AM



“ To the Smith Family,
Each of you have my deepest sympathy.

I met Senator Smith at a Textile function in Charleston in 1985. At that time, I mentioned that growing up in Greenwood, S.C., I had seen him on television many times advertising the tires. He was so sincere, genuine and caring. Little did I know that I would end up in Greer in 1991, and he would be my Senator. We were fortunate to be represented so well.

God Bless each of you.

Sincerely,

Joe Ready

111 Fairview Place

Greer, S.C. 29651##imported-begin##*Joseph F. Ready*##imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 07:51 AM



“ Senator Smith truly represented and served his "people" and he will always be remembered in my neighborhood for coming to our aid in time of crisis when our "water wells" were drying up. Sen Smith saw to it that the "city water" be extended to our properties.

THANK YOU again, Sen. Smith.##imported-begin##*Janet Garzone*##imported-end##

December 18, 2006 at 07:49 AM



“ Joyce and I were saddened to learn of Senator Smith's death. He was one of our favorite people during the 22 years that we lived in Greer. We know it is difficult to loose Mrs. Smith and now the Senator in such a short period of time. Please know that the family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

*Richard & Joyce Strawhorn
Calhoun, Ga.##imported-begin##Richard & Joyce
Strawhorn##imported-end##*

December 18, 2006 at 06:23 AM