



Richard Leon Smith

February 19, 1947 - February 14, 2023

Richard Leon Smith, 75, of Easton, MD, and Naples, FL, passed away peacefully at his home with family by his side on February 14, 2023.

Richard was born in Easton on February 19, 1947, the son of Joseph Carroll and Grace Smith (Balderson). He was the youngest of six children.

Richard grew up in Oxford, MD, and graduated from Easton High School Class of 1965. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army National Guard. After discharge from the Guard, he went to work for DuPont in Seaford, DE. Later he joined Waverly Press in Easton where he worked as Production Control Manager. After leaving Waverly, he went to work at Higgins and Spencer in St. Michaels, MD, until he retired in 2011. He then worked part-time at Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton. He also had a small picture framing business in his home for many years.

Richard enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing golf, and building Kentucky rifles in his spare time. He served for many years on the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board and the Oxford Cemetery Board. He was a life member with the Easton Elks Lodge 1622 and was a member of the American Legion.

He joined the Oxford volunteer Fire Department in 1965. From this early

experience, the volunteer fire service became a lifelong passion for him advocating for their causes locally and statewide. Richard served in many capacities for 58 years. He became chief in Oxford in 1975, he served as delegate to the MD State Firemens Assn. He served as President of the Eastern Shore Volunteer Firefighters Assn., and President of Talbot County Fire and Rescue Assn. He was also made an honorary member of Eldorado Brookview Fire Co.

He worked with the Maryland State Firemen's Association as a member of the Executive Committee, Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee, Chair of the Legislative Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Sprinkler Committee. Richard was placed in the MSFA Hall of Fame, he was honored with the Sen Wm H. Amoss Memorial Legislative Award and in 2017 and received the Gladhill Thompson Award. In 2018, he received Fire Sprinkler Advocate of the year from the American Fire Sprinkler Association.

Richard is survived by his wife Cynthia (Cindy); stepchildren, J. Corey Schmidt of Preston, MD, and Rebecca Schmidt of Rockville, MD; two sisters, Carol (Cookie) Crickenberger and husband Albert Griffith of Federalsburg, MD, and Eleanor (Petie) Anderson and husband Jim of Trinity, FL. He was preceded in death by his brother, J. Philemon Smith, and sisters, Shirley Merryweather and Ione Nichols.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, on Peachblossom Road, Easton, where a funeral service will take place at 12 p.m. Interment with military and fire department honors will follow at Oxford Cemetery, Oxford, MD.

Serving as pallbearers are: Hank Duncan, Joe Duncan, J. Corey Schmidt, P.J. Dyott, Dave Keller and Jamie McNeal. Honorary Pallbearers will be: Honorable James E. Malone, Jr., Robert A. Murphy, Judge Philip Carey Foster

and Phillip Stovall

At Richard's request, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Oxford Volunteer Fire Company, 300 Oxford Rd, Oxford, MD 21654 or Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation, PO Box 742, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Cemetery Details

Oxford Cemetery

Oxford, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
100 Peach Blossom Road
Easton, MD

Funeral Service

MAR 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
100 Peach Blossom Road
Easton, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Leon Smith*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM

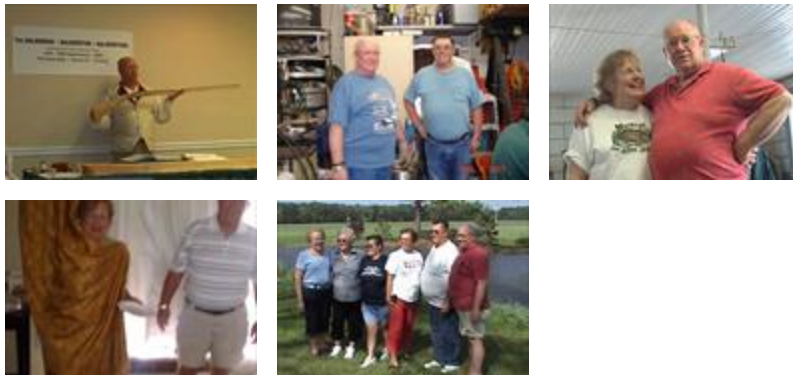


“ *Richard Leon Smith*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *15 files added to the album Family*



Dal Mallory - March 03, 2023 at 12:38 AM

PE

“ Condolences to the Smith Family from me personally and from the Delaware Fire Sprinkler Coalition. Richard was very helpful with and supportive of the advocacy of residential fire sprinkler systems in Delaware. He is definitely missed.

Paul Eichler

Paul W Eichler - February 28, 2023 at 07:41 PM

EV

“ Eldorado-Brookview Vol Fire Department would like to send its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Richard Smith. He will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Eldorado-Brookview VFD - February 28, 2023 at 08:11 AM

SM

“ Senator Johnny Mautz lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith



Senator Johnny Mautz - February 27, 2023 at 04:17 PM

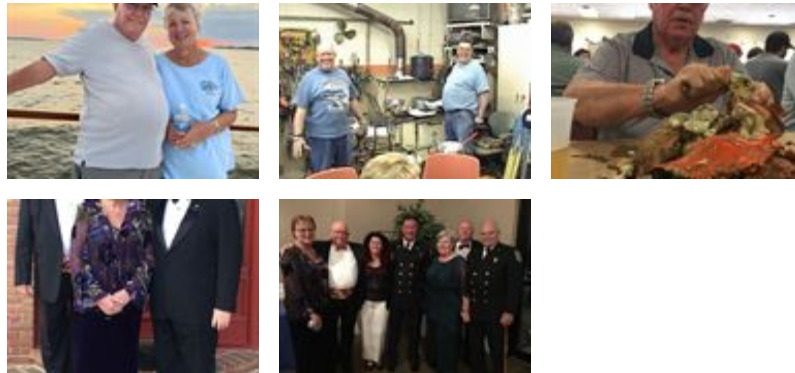
SM

Sending our condolences to Cindy and many prayers filled with wonderful memories to Richard. His thoughtful expertise and caring personality will be missed, and most importantly, never forgotten. Warm wishes of "sweet peace" to a wonderful man.

Senator Johnny Mautz - February 27, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ 114 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 27, 2023 at 09:57 AM

EI

“ *ELDORADO BROOKVIEW VOL. FIRE CO. INC. purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Richard Leon Smith.*



ELDORADO BROOKVIEW VOL. FIRE CO. INC. - February 27, 2023 at 08:57 AM

RM

“ *We send our condolences to Cindy. We had a lot of good memories together and he truly will be missed! MSFA has lost a very dedicated person to the fire service and will truly be missed in Annapolis.*



Bob & Rose Murphy

ROSE MURPHY - February 27, 2023 at 08:38 AM

PS

“ I remember when he took me crabbing, I thought li would get more than him. Keeping mind that I had never even seen one. He got a lot and laughed at me when I saw them and was afraid of them. We always had so much fun. He was still in high school and we had moved in next door to his family. An adopted family. They took us in.
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pst stined - February 23, 2023 at 09:30 PM

RM

“ I worked with Richard years ago at Waverly Press. He was a good man and he will be missed.

Rick Morris



Rick Morris - February 22, 2023 at 10:50 AM

KM

“ Richard was a high school classmate and a good friend throughout the years. I will always remember him for his good humor, kindness, and big smile whenever our paths crossed. He was an amazing person and accomplished much in life. My thoughts and prayers go out to you, Cindy, and the family. He will be missed. Love, Kay Prevatte Moye

Kay Prevatte Moye - February 21, 2023 at 05:34 PM

NW

“ Nancy Wood lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith



Nancy Wood - February 21, 2023 at 11:24 AM

June Shortall

“ June Shortall lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith



June Shortall - February 20, 2023 at 05:51 PM

PC

“ Page Callahan lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith



Page Callahan - February 20, 2023 at 04:43 PM

MI

“ Mitzi lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith



mitzi - February 20, 2023 at 03:04 PM

EK

“ Evelyn Koski lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith



Evelyn Koski - February 20, 2023 at 12:09 PM

CP

“ *Carol Prettyman lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith*



Carol Prettyman - February 20, 2023 at 09:34 AM

SF

“ *Sam And Kay Fairbank lit a candle in memory of Richard Leon Smith*



Sam and Kay Fairbank - February 19, 2023 at 08:07 PM

TW

“ *I will always remember Richard as a proud and faithful advocate of the fire service in Maryland. I was fortunate enough to have met him through the MSFA. Thank you for the leadership and friendship my friend.*



Tracy Whitby-Fairall - February 18, 2023 at 08:13 PM