



# David Lee Smith, Jr.

MAR 3, 2019



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FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

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## David Lee Smith, Jr.

MAR 3, 2019

**O**bituary of David Lee Smith, Jr. Please share a memory of David to include in a keepsake book for family and friends. View Tribute Book David Lee Smith, Jr was born 15 August 1926 in Markham, Matagorda, Texas, in his grandmother's home, weighing 5.5 pounds. He was the fourth child and second son of David Lee "Dave" and Ina Gullett Smith. His siblings: Mary Lee, William Clarence "Brother" and Joyce Berith "Joy" were aged sixteen, fourteen and seven. His naming created a disagreement between his parents. Dave wanted him named David Lewis to honor his father, but Ina wanted him to be a junior. Both parents being strong-willed and determined; Ina registered his birth in the Matagorda County courthouse as a junior and Dave refused to acknowledge the name. He called him "Tom" his entire life. In May 1928 he moved from Markham with his mother and sisters to join Dave at the ranch he was managing for J D Hughes in Pearland, Brazoria, Texas. The ranch covering many areas was also a farm, something that provided for the family during the Great Depression. "The Old Home Place" was located where Southdown subdivision is now located on Hughes Ranch Road. At the time of their arrival the house was a four-s square, clapboard on piers in the middle of the bald prairie. Ina planted trees, flowers, even made a fish pond to improve the property. It did not have indoor plumbing, running water, electricity or a phone until they were added with another bedroom and bathroom in 1938-39. Tom was in the saddle with Mary Lee before three months. A pillow was designed and made to accommodate him in between the saddle pommel and Mary Lee's lap. He slight build as a young child. In elementary school he filled his pockets with rocks on the days that weight and height were recorded at school. He loved farming and ranching with Dave and Brother. Many wonderful tall tales came from those years. They farmed rice and ranched where Silverlake Subdivision stands today. In 1945 a tall, beautiful, elegant young woman came to Pearland from Huntsville, Texas to visit her sister and brother-in-law



at their dairy farm in Pearland. It was love at first sight when David met Frankie Walker. They married one year later, on 5 October 1946 in her parents' home. Their union produced three daughters: Martha, Susan, and Leah. They were not given middle names so that they would always be "Smiths". In 1947, David obtained his Texas Peace Officers' license which he held for 60 years. He worked for Brazoria County as a Sheriff's Deputy, Death Investigator, and Constable, Pearland Police Department, Manvel Police Department, and was appointed by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as a Special Texas Ranger in 1972. In 1947 David obtained his Texas Peace Officers' license which he held for sixty years. Through the ensuing years he worked for Brazoria County as Sheriff's Deputy and Death Investigator, in Pearland and Manvel as Constable for the respective police departments. In 1972 he was appointed a Special Texas Ranger by the State Department of Public Safety (DPS). David was baptized by Cecil Mallory in the Eastside Church of Christ in Houston in 1952. Faithfully serving the Pearland Church of Christ he was first a deacon and then an elder, an office he held for over 30 years. He taught the adult Bible class every Sunday morning for more years than he can remember, and had a love of the Lord, his fellow Christians, his family, and his community that far surpassed that of the average man. As the result of government-imposed regulations, specifically allotments on rice production David left farming and ranching; taught himself new skills to support his family and stay in the area. Through correspondence courses he learned TV and radio repair and later earned his real estate license. He and Brother owned Smith Brothers Feed Store and Pearland Hardware and Supply Co. In 1960, David and Frankie opened David L. Smith Realty on the corner of FM 518 and SH 35. Frankie earned her real estate sales license and David obtained his broker's license. With the help of Brother, and A. L. Poe (banker and church elder), the business boomed as NASA had just hit the area. Land and housing was at a premium and God blessed the group with high sales. With the help of Brother in the field and Mr. Poe as the bookkeeper, David began to develop land in the Pearland area. Subdivisions such as Sherwood, Regency Park, West Lea, Brookland Acres, Shady crest and Green Tee Terrace were designed and developed; homes began filling formerly open fields. Their first model home was built in



Regency Park with custom homes to follow. With the help of other Pearlanders, David and Frankie formed the Pearland Emergency Medical Service in 1976. An all-volunteer organization, the first ambulance was a panel van and expanded until David's retirement from the EMS to a 5-ambulance, two-team service. David served as the EMS director for 12 years. David became a licensed paramedic and held that certification until he retired from the EMS. The EMS became a function of the Pearland Fire Department. In 2017 the building housing administration for fire and emergency services in the City of Pearland was named for him in an impressive ceremony. In addition to serving the Lord, David was elected to the first Pearland city council in 1959. He served two other terms in 1990 and 1992. He was president of the Pearland/Hobby Area Chamber of Commerce in 1975 and was named Citizen of the Year in 1980. Among other distinctions, David has received the Community Builder Award in 2007 from the A. C. Spencer Masonic Lodge #1384, The Junior Achievement Hall of Fame of Brazoria County Award Pioneer Award, and The Citizenship Award. He was a member of the Pearland Volunteer Fire Department for 60 years and a Rotarian for 20 years; he was a Paul Harris Fellow and Rotarian of the Year. Fully committed to the Pearland Church of Christ, he maintained service and membership for sixty-seven years. When Frankie died November 15, 2000, she left a trust fund that was to be philanthropic in nature. David, along with his daughters, financed the Frankie Smith Agriculture Project in Benin, West Africa. The program was created to prepare preachers of the Gospel who were also trained in small farm agriculture to feed bodies and souls. He never failed to tell of the success of the project and gives the glory to God. At age seventy in 1996 he envisioned a twenty-five-year project. Purchasing numerous adjoining tracts suitable land in rural Brazoria county he began digging what he proposed would be an upscale housing development around a "lake". Digging and selling dirt, rock, gravel and finally sand for about twenty years. Rather than expanding the development, he chose to sell "the hole in the ground" to the City of Manvel for water detention. After Frankie's death he sold their home in Green Tee Terrace and built a home for himself; carefully planning handicap access, accommodations for caregivers, etc. Brother's health began to fail in his early nineties, and he shared David's home until his death



## Obituary

**David Lee Smith, Jr.**

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in 2007. David lived an independent and busy life until March 2015. He suffered a catastrophic fall, breaking his right tibia, fibula and ankle. After more than six months in wound care and rehabilitation facilities he made his home at Trinity Oaks Assisted Living on Pearland Parkway in his hometown. He was surrounded by many old friends from the area; he made new friends with whom he dined, played Bingo, dominoes and shared his tales, stories, jokes and laughter. On Sunday, 3 March 2019 David peacefully and painlessly passed from this world encircled by his three “girls”. David was a servant of the Lord, proud American, a long, tall Texan and generous to a fault. His legacy includes his daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. His life exemplifies opening words of the hymn “A Beautiful Life” which begins, “Each day I’ll do a golden deed...”



## Tribute Wall

David Lee Smith, Jr.

JK

**J R Kenn6** posted:

Remember David well.Great memories for sure. RIP

May 5 at 7:00 PM

JB

**James Baugh** posted:

I remember Mr. Smith, and his family well. We attended the Pearland Church of Christ for several years. Although its been 3 years now, I send my condolences to his family and friends.

August 24 at 7:00 PM

SS

**Samantha Stewart** posted:

I worked with Mr. smith years ago through a company and he was one of the most loving and caring men I've worked with here. He's been on my mind since I've moved back to Pearland last year. I send my thoughts and prayers to Susan Martha and the other daughter. I am so sorry to hear of his passing without visiting him

April 16 at 7:00 PM

SH

**Steve Harris** posted:

I am so sorry to have just now heard this. Mr. Smith was a good friend of my dad, C.J.Harris, Jr and his family with ours. I've lived in MS since 1989 and have missed out on news that ties back to my Pearland.He was a great man, as was his whole family.I am glad that he lived so many years to shed his wisdom and fun on those around him that needed both.Thank you God for people like David Smith, Jr that meant so much to so many.

March 18 at 7:00 PM

MM

**Mollie Miller** posted:

David Smith was the reason I got into becoming a a paramedic firefighter. Thank you and god speed sir. And we have it from here. I love you sir and thank you.

March 8 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

David Lee Smith, Jr.

SP

**Sandra And Bob Price** posted:

Condolences and prayers for you and your family, Leah and Dwight.

March 8 at 7:00 PM

VR

**Vance Riley** posted:

David was a blessing to Pearland and to its long cherished history of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. David was a blessing to me by instructing me as an EMT-Intermediate and then as an EMT-Paramedic many years ago. It is an honor for us to report to work each morning in a building named after him. We will not forget him and his work will continue to go on. Our prayers are with the whole Smith family and his extended Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement families, as well. Vance L. Riley  
Fire Chief Pearland Fire Department

March 7 at 7:00 PM

GC

**George Carman** posted:

Hilda and I are sorry for your loss. We pray God will comfort you with the comfort only He can give. We will keep your family in our prayers.

March 7 at 7:00 PM

LM

**Linda Menchaca** posted:

My condolences to the entire David Smith family  
Linda Menchaca

March 6 at 7:00 PM

LD

**Lisa Diese** posted:

My sweet friend David. I will sure miss your great sense of humor and quick witt. I was a lucky one who got to spend so much time with you. I was truly blessed to eat lunch with you every day and get to work with you. I loved all your funny stories. I will never forget them. It was such an honor for you to ask me to sell yours and Frankie's home. I'm sure gonna miss you. I'm so glad you're with Frankie again. Life will just not be the same without you here. If you're not country people, you just wouldn't understand, right David. Love you my friend, until we meet again at our Saviors feet.

March 6 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

David Lee Smith, Jr.

BM

**Brenda Miller** posted:

Prayers and condolences to Mr. Smith's family and friends. I don't remember him, but I remember Martha. Seems I remember her helping dye Bubba, Joey, and someone else's hair back years ago. I am truly sorry for your loss. God bless.

March 6 at 7:00 PM

AL

**Amy And Jeff Lowe** posted:

Although we never had the good fortune to personally know David Smith, we've heard such good things about him. We send our condolences and prayers to Leah Bateman and Susan Lenamon and their families. In Christian love, Jeff and Amy Lowe

March 6 at 7:00 PM

BK

**Bob & Brenda Kennedy** posted:

So sorry for your loss.

March 6 at 7:00 PM

TB

**Tyna Hall Bittick** posted:

David Smith and family had such a positive impact on Pearland, He was active in so many ways for Pearland to become such a wonderful town. Prayers for the family

March 6 at 7:00 PM

PK

**Pat Knight** posted:

Dear Smith Family. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all. God Bless and Be With You. In Christian Love Mary Means Pat Knight

March 6 at 7:00 PM

DM

**Darlene Miller** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of David passing. He was a great and caring man. I always enjoyed running into him in town or a Republican fund raiser. I saw him about a year ago when he was at Windsong along with my mom and enjoyed our visit. G5gB3

March 6 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**David Lee Smith, Jr.**

CM

**Calvin V Meade** posted:

David was a wonderful citizen who loved Pearland and worked hard to make it a better place. Condolences to the entire Smith family from the entire Massey and Meade family.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

KC

**Kevin Cole** posted:

David was a one-of-a-kind gentleman. I call it a pleasure to have known him and call him friend. Pearland has lost a giant of a man. Prayers for all of his family during this time.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

ME

**Margaret Hammack Elkins** posted:

I had the great pleasure of working with David and what a fine man to have known. This was in the 70's. He contributed so much to his community. Prays to all the family.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

KB

**Keith Bonner** posted:

I am truly saddened at the loss of your father and my friend. David was a great man who taught me valuable lessons about what family and loyalty mean. His contributions to the City of Pearland are unmeasurable. He loved you and your sisters and your mother with all of his bigger than life heart. I will miss him greatly.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

BS

**Buck Stevens** posted:

David was such a mentor.... many conversations about radios, emergency management, EMS, law enforcement stories and above all, the history of our great community. My condolences to the Smith family know he made a rich impact on all of us. It was an honor to be his friend.

March 5 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

David Lee Smith, Jr.

PH

**Patti And Allan Honc** posted:

Your authentic presence and wisdom helped us in our marriage, faith and during our kids teenage years. We miss you.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

JD

**Julie Davis** posted:

Thank you for your leadership.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

PH

**Patti And Allan Honc** posted:

David was a special person and presence fir our spiritual grounding, faith and support for our kids teenage years. He was instrumental in setting up an EMS for Pearland. Love him and family. We'll miss him.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

TM

**Terrie Morgan** posted:

I met David in 1990 when I worked for the South East Economic Development Corporation in Pasadena. Little did I know I would be moving to Pearland in 1992 and work with him again. He was always bigger than life! In 2000 David and I were both serving on the Pearland 2020 Vision committee. A group of us were sitting around the table and the facilitator asked each of us how we envision Pearland to be in 2020. There were so many sophisticated answers regarding mass transit, technology, infrastructure, you name it! I happen to be sitting beside David. I will never forget his answer when the facilitator called on him...."Hell, I don't even by green bananas. I may be gone tomorrow. Beats me what Pearland will look like in 2020!" The group roared with laughter. My friend, David almost made to 2020 to see for himself. He was truly a stand up kind of guy with much integrity, common sense and integrity. He will be truly missed as one of the pillars in Pearland.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

LW

**Larry Wilkins** posted:

My deepest sympathy goes out to the entire Family. David Smith, a Man for All Seasons. Pearland owes him a great deal. Just one more Thank You Sir...

March 5 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

David Lee Smith, Jr.

MH

**Mark Humphries** posted:

David, You made such a difference in my life. From our families being close over all the years to you even building my family's home. It also was your help that made it possible for me to enter law enforcement as a career. I've been a licensed peace officer for 45 years because of your help and mentoring over the years. You are and will be greatly missed. Mark Humphries

March 5 at 7:00 PM

SC

**Susan Smith Castleberry** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers. Susan

March 5 at 7:00 PM

JF

**Judy Armstrong Fore** posted:

Our thought & prayers are with the family during this sad time! God Bless! Judy Armstrong Fore

March 5 at 7:00 PM

MH

**Maureen Henry** posted:

My sincerest condolences! Mr Smith was a wonderful man. He was always kind and friendly. It was always good to see his smiling face!

March 5 at 7:00 PM

LB

**Linda Biernacki** posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. May you find peace knowing he is home and at peace. Linda and Ricard Biernacki

March 5 at 7:00 PM

CI

**Cindy** posted:

What a pleasure it was to know this beautiful soul. Got to visit with him in December and his spirits were still just as great as they were back in the day! Kind words and humor were aplenty when he was around.

March 5 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**David Lee Smith, Jr.**

RC

**Randall Connell** posted:

I remember Mr. David from my childhood and teenage years of living in Pearland and Manvel. My Dad thought so highly of him and Clarence and Jack Miller. He was very supportive when my Dad and later my Mom Died. My thoughts are with all of his family and may God send encouragement to you.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

KO

**Keith Ordeneaux** posted:

Pearland has lost a great man. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and many friends of Mr. Smith. Although he is gone he has left a legacy that will last far into the future. Every time you hear or see an ambulance in Pearland please thank Mr. Smith and his wife for bringing this service to Pearland. I will miss hearing his voice and the stories. Rest in peace sir you left this world better than you found it and that is all anyone could ask.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

NG

**Nancy Cours Guess** posted:

David was a busy man, working for his beloved Pearland. He was always trying to get things done for our city. You would see him everywhere. Our city will miss his hard work and caring attitude. Condolences to his family.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

LW

**Loyd Wilson** posted:

David was someone you could always depend upon. Laura and I looked up to David and his wife as long as we knew them. They were there for us when we needed them, and at other times, "just because". David understood what it was like to be a little rough around the edges, and he never judged us for our shortcomings. David wasn't a perfect man (who was but Christ himself), but he definitely was a Christian man, a good husband and father, and all the other titles he earned along the way and he was always there to lead the way. We say so long dear friend, until we meet again in the hereafter! With love from all of us in the Wilson family.

March 5 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

David Lee Smith, Jr.

ET

**Ed Thompson** posted:

David was one of a kind. His fingerprint will always be on the City of Pearland and Brazoria County. We lost a treasure.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

CC

**Carol Artz-Bucek, President/Ceo Pearland Chamber Of Commerce** posted:

I knew David Smith through The Pearland Chamber of Commerce. He was a past Chair of the Board and avid supporter of the organization. He was larger than life with his upbeat attitude, tall stature and big cowboy hat. His laugh was infectious. His leadership will live on and will always be the basis of the success of Pearland.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

ES

**Erin Steele** posted:

David L. Smith was a wonderful, kind, generous man. I remember attending banquets honoring high school seniors graduating in the top 10% of their class. David and his wife, Frankie, awarded scholarships to students every year at the annual luncheon. A few years ago, Mr. Smith encountered a young mother and her child in need outside a local restaurant. He paid for their meals and gave the mother money for gas. He referred her to local agencies for additional assistance. David L. Smith was a living example of how to love your neighbor. These are just two of hundreds of times he recognized a need and took action. "Let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 Mr. Smith's light shines on through his family. May God provide comfort and strength to them.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

CB

**Carrie Brumley** posted:

I met Mr. Smith at one of his visits to Perry's Landmark restaurant. He was always nice and a pleasure to speak with. He was such an icon here in Pearland and will be missed. Every time I saw him around town in his truck we would just wave. My condolences to his family and may he rest in peace. Thank you for your service to our great city.

March 4 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

David Lee Smith, Jr.

DB

**Deana Boren** posted:

My memory goes back to the early 1980s. My husband and I (Terry) were married in 1983. Terry was a volunteer with Brookside Fire Dept. And I thought that was the coolest thing. I loved the thought of being involved in a small community and giving back. I was able to join the fire dept in 1985, my self and another Lady( Tammy) joined together. I remember getting such praises from David, and telling us to not let those guys run us over. To show them what we had and to be the best we could be. He was always so encouraging, I loved to hear him talk and to hear that deep laughter.He was a tremendous assist to our community, and county. He will greatly missed.

March 4 at 7:00 PM

SS

**Stacie Shukanes** posted:

My deepest condolences for the entire Smith Family. Mr. Smith was a wonderful man with such a caring, warm heart! He will be missed by all who knew him. Much love & comfort to you all at this time of great grief.

March 4 at 7:00 PM

MM

**Mary Anne Mcwhirter** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with this entire precious family. What happy memories I hold of the man known as David Smith -- the Gentle Giant. When he entered a room just his mere presence demanded respect for who he was and what he was...He was so strong...yet his soul so gentle and giving. I remember that beautiful smile and his infectious boisterous laugh...that could light up a room.David is truly the greatest icon of Pearland and has done so much for so many and given to this community selflessly as no other. He has truly made Pearland what it is today. Oh how he will be missed but his legacy is embedded in this community and the lives in it forevermore.

March 4 at 7:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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