

A close-up photograph of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is draped and slightly wrinkled, creating a sense of depth and texture. The colors are vibrant and the lighting is soft.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Larry L. Smith, Sr.

OCTOBER 13, 1935 - OCTOBER 7, 2024



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

II TIMOTHY 4:7

Graveside Service

11 a.m., Friday, October 11, 2024
Cedar Grove Cemetery, Newport, NC
Officiated by Rev. Joseph Park

Welcome & Prayer

Congregational Hymn, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Scripture Reading

Congregational Hymn, "Will The Circle Be Unbroken"

Invitation for Shared Remarks

Message

Congregational Hymn, "Amazing Grace"

Closing Prayer

Military Honors

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

I was standing by my window,
On a cold and cloudy day
When I saw that hearse come rolling
For to carry my father away

*Chorus: Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by
There's a better home a-waiting
In the sky, Lord, in the sky*

Well I told that undertaker
Undertaker please drive slow
For our father, you are taking
Lord, we hate to see him go

Chorus

Oh, I followed close behind him
Tried to hold up and be brave
But I could not hide my sorrow
When they laid him in the grave

Chorus

We sang the songs of childhood
Hymns of faith that made us strong
Ones that mother and father taught us
Hear the angels sing along

Chorus

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound) that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
When we've been there ten thousand years Bright shining as the sun!
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first begun.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Larry L. Smith, Sr., who went to be with the Lord on Monday, October 7, 2024, just shy of his 89th birthday. Born on October 13, 1935, in Newport, NC, Larry lived a life of service, love, and dedication.

A proud Vietnam Veteran, Larry served his country with honor, both in the United States Army, where he was part of the 11th Airborne Division and later in the United States Air Force. Larry often shared stories of his early days in the military, where he humorously noted that he jumped out of the first 30 airplanes he ever flew in, only landing in one for the first time when he returned home from Germany. His service and patriotism were constants throughout his life, and many will remember him as the man who trained for marathons, running 10-15 miles a day, while proudly carrying the American flag as a demonstration of his patriotism during Desert Storm.

Larry's love of sports and the community was evident to all who knew him. He was a beloved coach for Babe Ruth Baseball in Newport and took great pride in being the caretaker of Smith Park, where he shared his knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm for the game with generations of young athletes. Watching his grandchildren play baseball, basketball, and softball was one of his greatest joys. He and his wife Myrna served on the board of directors for the Babe Ruth Baseball League, Newport Pig Cookin' and supported many civic organizations including St. James United Methodist Church of Newport where they were married in 1958.

The greatest love of Larry's life was his wife, Myrna, with whom he shared 64 wonderful years before her passing just last year. Together, they built a loving family that extended far beyond their children and into the lives of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family is at peace knowing that they are both together again.

Larry is survived by his children: Myrna Smith (Tony) of Elkin, NC, Larry Smith, Jr. of Newport, NC, Janet Smith (Buddy) of Newport, NC, and Becky Chisenhall (Tommie) also of Newport, NC. He leaves behind a legacy carried on by his grandchildren, Amanda Wolcott (Jeremy) of Powells Point, NC, Jamie Bowman (Matthew) of Granite Falls, NC, Tommie Chisenhall, Jr. (Jessica) of Newport, NC, Larry Smith, III of Newport News, VA, Erin Langley (Jeff) of Newport, NC, Lonnie Chisenhall (Meredith) of Morehead City, NC, and Joshua Chisenhall (Olivia) of Newport, NC. His legacy is further celebrated by his 12 great-grandchildren, beloved nephews and nieces, and many close friends.

In addition to his wife, Larry was also preceded in death by his mother, Lina "Lizzie" M. Smith; father, James Steven Smith; his siblings, Minnie Thrower, Louise Williams, and James "Billy" Smith; as well as his granddaughters, Elizabeth Garner and Annie Chisenhall Edwards.

Larry was a proud American, dedicated family man, and a pillar of his community. His love for his country, family, and community touched many lives, and his memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Broken CHAIN

We little knew that morning that
God was going to call your name.

In life we loved you dearly.

In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone;
for part of us went with you

the day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories
your love is still our guide;
and though we cannot see you,

you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken
and nothing seems the same,
but as God calls us one by one

the chain will link again.