



God, Family, and Country was the creed Papaw lived by. He loved God and his church of Christ family. He loved his wife Nancy and was so proud of his boys, Blair and Clint, and their wives, Dr. Casey and Missy Lynn. He loved and adored his grandkids—Carson, Sawyer, Garrett, Harper, and Ashton so much, and they were his focus and joy. While we are so grateful to have his love and will miss him dearly, we believe that he is with his Lord and Savior and will forever be in our hearts.



### Funeral Service

McPherson church of Christ  
McPherson, Kansas  
Saturday, September 2, 2023, at 9:30 AM

### Officiant

Jason Fish

### Prelude Video Tribute Music

"Tennessee Waltz" by Eddy Arnold, "The Old Rugged Cross" by Johnny Cash, "How Great Thou Art" by Elvis Presley, "I'll Fly Away" by Alan Jackson, "Will The Circle Be Unbroken" by Randy Travis, & "The Wayward Wind" by Patsy Cline

### Service Music

"It Is Well With My Soul"  
"I Come To The Garden Alone"

### Song Leader

Chuck Allcock

### Prayers

Johnny Skelton Greg Thomas

### Pallbearers

Jim Ketcherside ~ Jesse Moege ~ Fred Bohnenblust  
Gail Huddle ~ Paul Taliaferro ~ Ryan Christiansen

### Honorary Pallbearers

Carson Smith ~ Sawyer Smith ~ Garrett Smith  
Harper Smith ~ Ashton Smith

### Ushers

Rich Settle ~ Don Delaney

### Final Resting Place

McPherson Cemetery

### Military Honors provided by

American Legion Post #24 and V.F.W. Post #2714  
"Taps" ~ Richard Gusé, trumpet

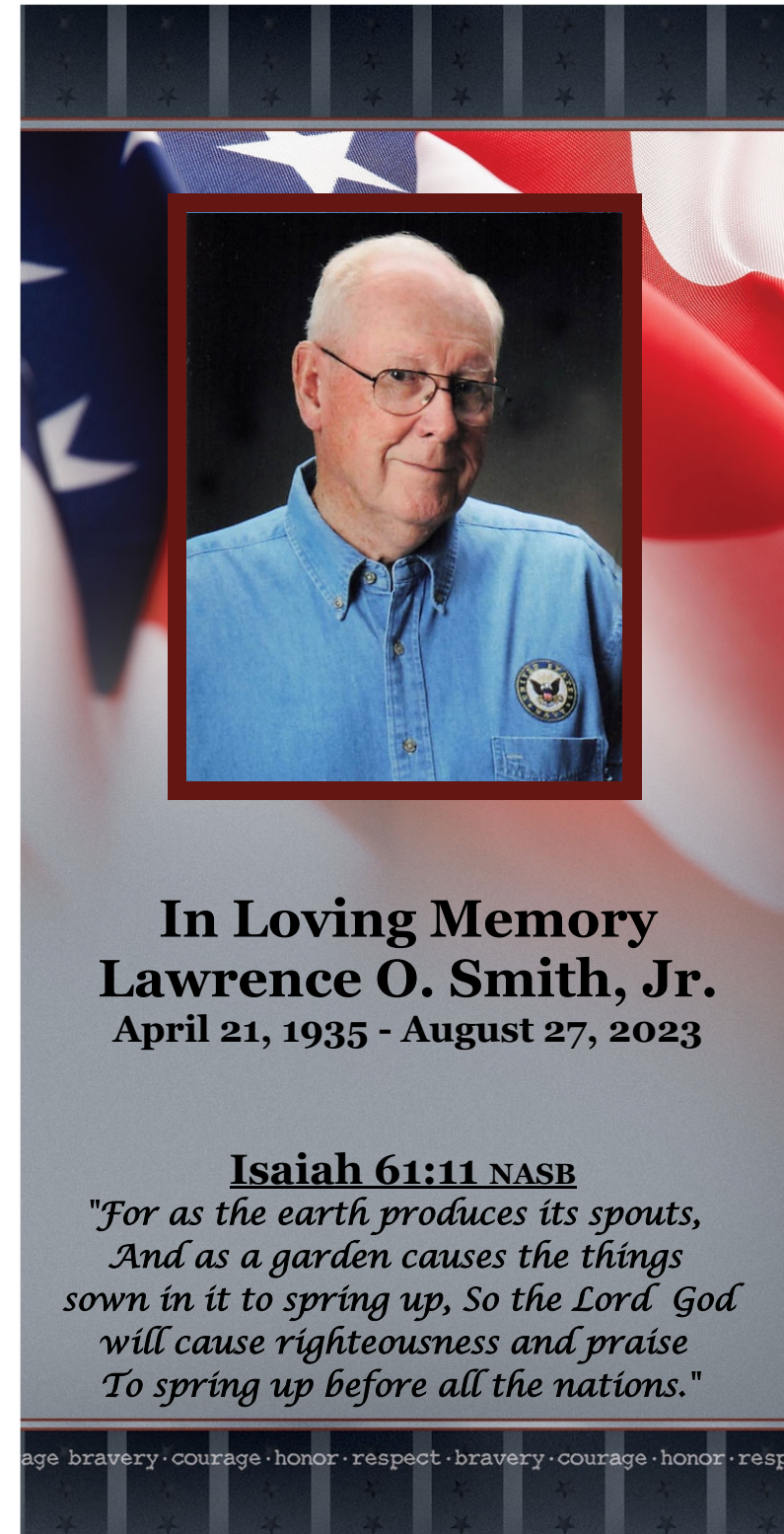
### Memorial Donations

Memorial donations can be made to McPherson church of Christ Scholarship Fund or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

### Appreciation

Larry's family wishes to express their sincere gratitude for your prayers and kindness, evidenced in thought and deed, and for your presence at this service.

*Stockham Family Funeral Home*



**In Loving Memory**  
**Lawrence O. Smith, Jr.**  
April 21, 1935 - August 27, 2023

### Isaiah 61:11 NASB

*"For as the earth produces its spouts,  
And as a garden causes the things  
sown in it to spring up, So the Lord God  
will cause righteousness and praise  
To spring up before all the nations."*

*A Celebration of Life*  
*Lawrence O. Smith, Jr.*

How many people write their own obituary? Well, Papaw made a good start on his.

"I, Lawrence O. Smith, Jr., was born on April 21, 1935, Easter Sunday, in Henderson, Tennessee. My parents, Lawrence Olford Smith, Sr. and Bessie May Andrews Smith, were visiting her mother, Callie Green Andrews, at the time. Shortly after, a healthy redhead was delivered by a local Henderson physician, Dr. Smith (no relation).

My mother Bessie was the daughter of Walter Hillman Andrews and Callie Green Andrews. She was born in Riverton, Alabama but lived most of her life in Mississippi.

My father Lawrence served in the US Army during World War 1 and graduated from Mississippi State College in 1917.

I attended the Van Vleet Consolidated School through the 8th grade and then was bussed to Houston, Mississippi for my last four years. I attended Mississippi State University on two separate occasions graduating in 1962 with a degree in Industrial Management.

After serving three years on active duty in the US Army, I worked for two years in St. Louis at McDonald Aircraft which later merged with both Douglas and Boeing.

On August 6, 1960, I married Miss Nancy June Ledbetter of Marion, Arkansas and Henderson, Tennessee at the church of Christ in Henderson. We made our first home in Starkville, Mississippi. It was within walking distance of the university and in a house that was 109 years old at the time.

Both Nancy and I had jobs during our 2-year stay, and I finished college with only a \$250 school debt--not bad by today's standards!

After college, Nancy and I made our new home in St. John, Missouri on the far northwest side of St. Louis near Lambert Airport. We stayed there for about two years, and then I took a job with Baxter

Labs to help build and start a new pharmaceutical plant in Mountain Home, Arkansas.

The Arkansas stay consisted of long work hours and good fishing.

The next move was Milan, Tennessee with ITT Kellogg Telecommunications. This company was a good place to work but was in the process of joining up with another division that was not favorable to us.

So, we moved to Memphis, Tennessee and took a job with RCA television. We opened a new automated plant as part of a big RCA social experiment.

Around this time, my former manager in Arkansas called me and asked me to come to Hays, Kansas for the startup of a new pharmaceuticals plant. It took only a few minutes to make up our minds -- let's go for it!

I moved in the last week of December 1968, and Nancy joined me in April 1969 in our new house. This was an ideal place to live. Blair joined us in June 1969, a pleasant change to our routine. In 1973, Clinton joined our family. The boys became Kansans.

An opportunity came up for a short overseas assignment, and I left for England and Belgium in April 1974. Nancy and the boys followed. I enjoyed working in both of the countries. Blair started first grade in Thetford, England.

We got home to Hays the day before Thanksgiving and spent a couple weeks before we moved to Chicago with my new job at Baxter Labs corporate headquarters. We bought a new house in Arlington Heights, Illinois and enrolled Blair in school.

Corporate management was difficult for me. I had to travel quite a bit as well with my job. I learned that I preferred a plant situation where one has hands-on management. In early 1976, Nancy and I were both tired of the hustle and bustle and excess traffic.

We decided to come back to Kansas. I had been in contact with the Personnel manager of Sterling Drug concerning a new plant that they were building

in McPherson, Kansas.

We visited the plant and met some of the people, and after talking it over, we decided to give it a try for just a couple of years. That turned into 40-plus years as we decided we didn't want to leave this beautiful country.

The plant evolved through several owners--Sterling, Eastman, Kodak, Sanofi, Abbott, Hospira and currently Pfizer. I retired from Sanofi and worked five more years for Abbott before retiring a second time in December of 2002.

It was a good ride.

Papaw's writing ended here, but the ride didn't...in fact, it was only really beginning!

Many of you may have seen Papaw riding around town on Chiquita --the yellow and brown trike (painted to advertise his love of Daylight Donuts). He loved tinkering, thinking, and talking about his trike! Did you know he rode completely across Kansas on it?

Papaw was a true gardening enthusiast. Many, many hours were spent transforming his and Mamaw's plot of land (his farm) into a flourishing garden. His garden not only bore great fruit but also many experiences with his grandkids and friends as Mamaw and him generously shared their harvest.

His garage was his hangout, and if you couldn't find him in the garden, you would likely find him out tinkering in the garage. He built his own plane, repaired guns, VWs, fishing reels, motorcycles, bicycles and cars. He was always building, fixing or working on something while staying warm next to his barrel-shaped wood burning stove.

Throughout the years, he was actively involved in the church of Christ, Boy Scouts, Experimental Aircraft Association, American Production and Inventory Control (APICS), the McPherson City Planning Commission, Kansas State Rifle Association, local aviation, car and motorcycle activities, and he treasured the many friendships he made in all areas of his daily life.