

He Is Gone

*You can shed tears that he is gone,
Or you can smile because he lived,
You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see him
Or you can be full of the love that you shared,
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

*You can remember him and only that he is gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on,
You can cry and close your mind be empty and turn your back,
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*



Standing Upon the Seashore

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads his white sails
to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. He is an object of
beauty and strength. I stand and watch him until at length he hangs like a
speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky
come to mingle with each other.*

Then someone at my side says:

“There, he is gone!”

“Gone where?” *Gone from my sight. That is all. He is just as large in
mast and hull and spar as he was when he left my side and he is just as
able to bear his load of living freight to his destined port. His diminished
size is in me, not in him. And just at the moment when someone at my side
says: “There, he is gone!” There are other eyes watching him coming,
and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, “Here he comes!”*

And that is dying.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

George Laverne Smith

WHO WAS BORN

October 25, 1934

Berrien Springs, Michigan

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

January 3, 2020

Milbank, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

Parkview United Methodist Church

Milbank, South Dakota

OFFICIANTS

Rev. Melanie Reiners

Rev. Barbara McKewin

MUSICIAN

Pat Kunz, Organist

URN BEARER

Mike Smith

HONORARY BEARERS

George's Grandchildren

EULOGY

Scott Smith

ASL INTERPRETER

Whitney Gard

INURNMENT

At A Later Date

Milbank City Cemetery

Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

George's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.

Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the funeral service, please join the family for lunch and fellowship in the church fellowship hall.

ARRANGEMENTS BY

Mundwiler Funeral Home

Milbank, South Dakota

George Laverne Smith was born on October 25, 1934, in Berrien Springs, Michigan, to Lynn and Hazel (Urick) Smith. He attended school in Berrien Springs until his family moved to Jackson, Michigan, where he graduated from high school. George attended one year of college at Jackson Junior College before he was offered a scholarship at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. He was a four-year letterman in football, basketball, and track and received his B.A. degree in 1957. He earned his Master of Education in 1963 from South Dakota State University.

George spent his life dedicated to education, teaching and coaching in Gary, SD, and Flandreau, SD. He became Superintendent of the Hudson, SD, school before moving to Milbank in 1967 where he served as Superintendent until his retirement in 1994. While serving this district, he was instrumental in the building of the current high school and the athletic complex of which he was very proud. He spent the next 17 years as the Development Director of Grant County, a position he enjoyed a great deal.

Mr. Smith earned many recognitions during his lifetime, including being inducted into the DWU Hall of Fame, South Dakota Outstanding Superintendent Award, Minn-Dakota District Kiwanis Distinguished Member Award, Distinguished Educator Award, DWU Outstanding Educator Award, S.D. Intercollegiate Athlete Hall of Fame, SD School Administrator Honorary Retiree Award, SD Superintendent's Distinguished Service Award, School Bell Award from Associated School Boards of SD, and others. He served as a lobbyist for AARP, was a member of Kiwanis for many years and served on the Milbank City Council. Mr. Smith was a member of Parkview United Methodist Church and was Administrative Board Chairman for many years.

George was married to Jacqueline (Duimstra) Smith in 1956 in Colton, South Dakota. After their marriage, they lived in Michigan for one year before moving back to South Dakota. To this union, George and Jackie had five children. George loved South Dakota, the hunting and fishing it provided and the people of the State. Through his employment and sports that he enjoyed so very much, he came to call South Dakota his home and his chosen location to raise his family. Most of his acquaintances knew of the commitment he had to the Milbank School District and the Milbank community. The students and his children affectionately referred to him as 'General George' in reference to the 'tight ship' he ran, both at school and at home. Jackie was the light of George's life for 63 years and he lovingly referred to her as "The Wife"! Their love story showed their children how to cherish life when you have a wonderful partner.

George is survived by his wife, Jackie; his children: Scott (Karen) Smith, Aurora, CO; Kim Kaiser, Parker, CO; Pam (Lee) Schmidt, Brookings, SD; Ginger (Ruben) Leon, Colfax, NC; and Mike (Audra) Smith, Soddy Daisy, TN; three sisters: Connie (Louie) Norman, Peg (Bruce) Earl, Bette (Peter) Dejanovich and two brothers: Bill Smith, Ken (Liz) Smith, as well as many nieces and nephews. George was extremely proud of his children and their many accomplishments. He loved to visit and spend time with his 14 grandchildren: Erik, Jacob (Shanell), Gabe Smith, Jack (Gina), Kelcie (Chris) Wichmann, Tommy, Maggie Kaiser, Kari (Brian) Estes, Dan (Ashley) Schmidt, Vern, Nomar, Robby Leon, Colton, Asher Smith. He was blessed with three great-grandchildren: Sofia and Donny Smith and Haven Jo Estes. Preceding him in death are his parents; his parents-in-law: Peter and Violet Duimstra; a brother and sister-in-law: Russ and Corenne Smith; one infant sister; and a son-in-law, Mike Kaiser.

*The family would also like to thank Avantara Milbank
for the care and attention they gave him.*



George L. Smith
1934 - 2020

*"Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world."
Nelson Mandela*