



## Robert J. Smith

April 18, 1936 - October 3, 2020

Robert J. Smith, 84, passed away Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Via Christi in Pittsburg, KS. Robert was born April 18, 1936 in Carthage to J.D. and Dorothy E. "Wolff" Smith. Upon Graduating from Carthage High School in 1954, he enlisted in the US Army serving in Okinawa, Japan for three years. After receiving degrees in education and history from SW Missouri State and Pittsburg State, he taught history classes at Webb City High School from 1960 to 1965. In 1965, Robert transitioned to a Federal Civil Service career working first with US Army human resources in St. Louis, then as an archivist at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, KS. In 1967, he was employed as a historian in the United States Air Force history program until his retirement in 1993; his final position was as an Air Force Historian for field programs at Air Force history headquarters, the Pentagon. He was a member of the Church of Christ. Robert led singing, taught numerous Bible classes and served as a Deacon Elder.

Robert was united in marriage to Nancy Jo Ledl on January 26, 1958 in Carthage; she survives.

Robert is also survived by one son, David Robert Smith and wife Jan of Owasso, OK; one daughter, Cynthia Diane St. Louis and husband, David of Indianapolis, IN; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Eugene Smith of Arlington, TX and one sister

Marilynne Williams of Hempstead, TX.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2020 at Park Cemetery, with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the African Christian Hospitals, Searcy, Arkansas, In Search of the Lord's Way, Edmond, Oklahoma and The Church of Christ of Carthage, MO.

Online condolences may be made at [ww.ulmerfh.com](http://ww.ulmerfh.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Ulmer Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

OCT **9**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Park Cemetery  
801 South Baker  
Carthage, MO

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ For Mrs. Smith,

*Your neighbors around the corner on Cooper Street are thinking of you in your time of loss. Several of us newer neighbors listened to some of the old timers tell stories of Mr. Smith today. It was a beautiful time. We're here, if you need us.*

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**Jessica Nugent** - October 06, 2020 at 03:47 PM

MW

“ Although my brother was 7 years older than me, he was a kid at heart. He would put me on his shoulders and run through the house yelling duck every time we came to a door. He teased me a lot. He had a beautiful voice and sang at my wedding. I will miss talking on the phone and laughing at his stories.



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**Marilynne Williams** - October 05, 2020 at 08:25 PM

JN

*What song did he sing at your wedding? Your brother was my neighbor.*

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**Jessica Nugent** - October 06, 2020 at 03:48 PM

DS

*Thank you Marilynne. Yes, Dad was a natural tenor, loved leading singing at church and enjoyed music so much. His musical interests changed over the years some. Back in the early 70's, I remember his albums being played, especially the Herb Alpert & Tijuana Brass ones.*

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**David Smith** - October 07, 2020 at 06:48 AM

TS

*Pat and I are so sorry to hear about Bob's passing. He and I were friends for many years in the Air Force History Program. He frequently came to my offices and we shared some good times together. He was a true professional. Tom Snyder*

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**Thomas Snyder** - December 23, 2020 at 10:50 AM