



Thomas Ray Smith

April 15, 1941 - October 8, 2009

Thomas Ray Smith, 68, of Salisbury died unexpectedly Thursday, October 8, 2009 at his residence.

Born April 15, 1941 in Erwin, he was the son of the late John Otis and Iva Neighbors Smith.

Mr. Smith graduated from Dunn High School and the NC State University. He received his Executive MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill.

A veteran of the US Air Force he served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and was discharged with the rank of Captain.

Mr. Smith began his career with Dan River, Inc. and later served as Head of Quality Control and Product Development with Fieldcrest Industries. He was President of Salisbury Manufacturing from 1983-2006 when he retired.

A member of the First United Methodist Church, he served as an Usher and on the Board of Trustees and was to serve as Chairman next year.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnn Pope Smith, whom he married September 14, 1963, sons, Michael R. Smith and wife Julie of San Carlos, CA, and J. Patrick Smith and wife Allison of Raleigh; sister, Jean Carol Smith of Dunn;

grandchildren, Fletcher, Lindsey, Sloan and Cooper Smith; two step sisters Evelyn Bingham of Lexington and Lib Smith and husband Bill of Greensboro.

A Celebration of Life for Mr. Smith will be held 1:00 PM – Monday (Oct. 12) at the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Steve Haines, Senior Pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at the US National Cemetery, Statesville Blvd. location with Military Graveside Rites conducted by the Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard.

The family will receive friends from 4-6 PM Sunday at the Summersett Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 217 S. Church St., Salisbury, NC 28144 or the American Heart Association, 222 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28202.

Summersett Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ We have been friends with Ray and JoAnn for many years. We attended the same church in Eden NC, and went to many NC State football games. Ray had a great sense of humor and I'll always remember the nickname he gave me after my "yard sale" layaway account. We will miss him very much and extend our love and sympathy to JoAnn, Michael, and Patrick.
Love, Brenda, Jim###imported-begin##Brenda Stuttz###imported-end##

November 16, 2009 at 09:17 PM



“ Dear JoAnn, Our hearts were broken when we heard about Ray. We went to the funeral yesterday and we were touched by the service and outpouring of careing. We would have liked to have spoken with you, Jean Carrol, and your family, but the weather was so bad, we had no idea how to get to your home, and you all looked like you needed time alone. We have great and lasting memories of Ray during the early years (High School and College) and I'll always consider him a friend.

May your hearts be healed by God's loving touch...

Vicki & Bert

Ending Note: I'll never forget that Sunday afternoon 50 years ago when Ray pulled into my driveway in that 1955 Ford and I threw my one suitcase in the trunk and crawled into the back seat with Norman Jernigan and then on to pick up Phil Leslie. All four of us hearing off to NC State and the School of Textiles, in ONE car, ready to take on the world. Vicki mentioned that now I'm the only one left, how sad. Take care and you all are in our prayers.##imported-begin##Bert & Vicki Alabaster##imported-end##

October 13, 2009 at 02:23 PM



“ May you gain comfort by reading Job 14:14. In thinking about the death of your loved one, you probably have considered a similar question. The bible gives the answer at Isaiah 26:19 when it promises, "Your dead ones will live.. They will rise up". Proof of this is found in the bible at John 11:11-44 when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. This not only shows that with Jehovah God's power the dead really can live again, but also what will shortly take place on earth under the Kingdom of God which we all pray for. Please draw close to God in prayer, and the bible promises that he himself will sustain you. Psalm 55:22.##imported-begin##Sheila##imported-end##

October 13, 2009 at 11:09 AM



“ JoAnne ,
Word cannot express my sorrow for your loss. If you are ever this way and would like to stop, just send me an e-mail or stop by Catawba Valley Community College. I will be here until Dec. 19th and then I'm out of here. Would love to see you. Again, I'm so sorry to hear about Ray.
Anne###imported-begin##Anne Lee Furr###imported-end##

October 12, 2009 at 08:55 AM



“ Dear Patrick, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Jessica and Nash###imported-begin##Jessica and Nash Redwine###imported-end##

October 12, 2009 at 08:46 AM



“ Dear JoAnn and boys,

We were so shocked and saddened to learn of Ray's sudden death. I know you will miss him terribly as will his four grandchildren. We'll be thinking about you all and saying prayers for your comfort and strength.

Sincerely,
Sally and Charles###imported-begin##Sally and Charles Wilson###imported-end##

October 11, 2009 at 07:58 PM



“ JoAnn and the Smith family,

*Please accept our condolences.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow.
May GOD Bless You and give you PEACE.*

*A. T. and Edna Hinson###imported-begin##A. T. Hinson. Jr and wife
Edna###imported-end##*

October 11, 2009 at 04:30 PM



“ Dear Patrick and Mike...I am so sorry for your loss. My heartfelt prayers are with you all during this difficult time. I pray that the peace of God be upon you and your family as you dwell on the goodness of fathers life.###imported-begin##Noelle Bradshaw Ricks###imported-end##

October 11, 2009 at 03:16 PM



“ JoAnn, Sandy and I extend our condolences to you and your family at Ray's sudden passing. As members of his usher team, we were drawn to him in Christian love and valued his friendship. Ray's was a kind and thoughtful man. We missed having him lead us in our duties this day at Sunday Service. It was not the same without him; We will miss him.

*Tony and Sandy Yon###imported-begin##Tony & Sandy
Yon###imported-end##*

October 11, 2009 at 02:09 PM



“ Dearest JoAnn and family,

"Your faith Will See You Through."

*You've overcome so many things and every time, you've grown
Through sheer determination and the wisdom that you've shown.*

*So as you face this journey from the moment you begin,
Know that God will guide you, and you'll have the strength to win.*

We are keeping you close in our thoughts and prayers.

*"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do
not see." -HEBREWS 11:1###imported-begin##Carolyn and Wilbert
Sadler###imported-end##*

October 11, 2009 at 01:07 PM



“ Hey JoAnn, I just heard from Cone Sherril about Ray, I am so sorry
to hear this. I will miss him so much we talked a lot.

*We will remember you and the boys and family in our prayers.
Clemmey###imported-begin##Clemmey Queen###imported-end##*

October 11, 2009 at 09:16 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. Ray was a wonderful person and will be missed. I had the honor of working for Ray at Salisbury Manufacturing for 5 years and you couldn't ask for a better person to work for. He took a chance on an 18 yr old kid who had no experience but never thought twice about it. I am so sorry for your familys loss and for the communitys loss of an outstanding man.*##imported-begin##Angela Boston Beaver##imported-end##

October 10, 2009 at 09:55 PM



“ *RAY, WAS A GOOD MAN WITH A KIND HEART AND A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR.*

HE HAD A GREAT LOVE FOR HIS WIFE AND TWO SONS WHICH HE RELATED TO OFTEN. OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH EACH OF YOU.

HE WILL SURELY BE MISSED BY US ALL.##imported-begin##DAWSON STOKES##imported-end##

October 10, 2009 at 08:42 PM



“ *Patrick,*

My deepest sympathy to you and your family during this time. You are in my thoughts.

Mary Holmes##imported-begin##Mary Holmes Heilig Chick##imported-end##

October 10, 2009 at 07:01 PM



“ JoAnn,

I am so very sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family...

Linda###imported-begin##Linda Raby###imported-end##

October 10, 2009 at 06:18 PM



“ JoAnn: We are so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you..###imported-begin##Jerry & Becky Byrd###imported-end##

October 10, 2009 at 11:51 AM



“ I'm very sorry to hear of Tom's death and even though it's been a long time since we've seen the family you all are in our hearts and prayers.

Ed and Neel Guest (Formerly Edenites)###imported-begin##Ed Guest###imported-end##

October 10, 2009 at 11:46 AM



“ Ray was the most pleasant person to be with -- always. I enjoyed his company as long as I worked for Fieldcrest.

My condolences to the family for your truly great loss.

Dave Taylor###imported-begin##David. Taylor###imported-end##

October 09, 2009 at 10:23 PM



“ *##imported-begin##Tommy Jefferson##imported-end##*

October 09, 2009 at 08:20 PM



“ *JoAnn and family:*

I was saddened to have heard of the passing of your husband and Dad.

He and I had been friends for many years, going back to the old day's at Fieldcrest Mills in Eden.

We did not totally get away from one another after your move to Salisbury and our move to Kannapolis.

Ray was a very talented individual and a friend to all who knew him.

He will surely be missed by all who knew and loved him.

May God be with your entire family during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Jack & Jean Moore##imported-begin##Jack R. Moore##imported-end##

October 09, 2009 at 06:10 PM