



Joe Allen Smith

May 5, 1954 - April 7, 2016

Services for Joe Allen Smith, 61, of Tyler, will be held at 2:30 PM on Monday, April 11th, 2016 at Green Acres Baptist Church, with Rev. Mark Turman and Dr. Paul Powell officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1:00 to 2:15 PM, and internment will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Joe passed away Thursday, April 7th, 2016 after gracefully living with ALS for two years. His quiet strength throughout was anchored by his faith in Jesus.

He was born May 25th, 1954 in Oklahoma City to Jake and Betty Smith. He grew up in Tyler and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1972 and from the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. Following college, he joined his dad, Jake Smith, in the family business at Penco Oil Co.

Joe married Debbie Willman on February 16th, 1980. He was preceded in death by his mother Betty Smith and his father Jake Smith.

Joe was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He is survived by his wife, Debbie Smith of Tyler, daughter Monica Bozeman and husband Brad, daughter Melissa Champion and husband Matthew, son Nicholas Smith and wife Caroline, and son Michael Smith. He was blessed with seven grandchildren who lovingly called him "Papa": Will, Brianna, Keely,

Austin, Ellie, Harrison, and Libby. He is also survived by his sister Toni Hibbs and husband Greg, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Joe touched the lives of many with his selfless acts of service and love for others. He was a lifelong member of Green Acres Baptist Church, where he served on numerous committees and taught high school Sunday School for many years. Joe was passionate about the broadcast ministry and instrumental in its formation. He enjoyed music, aviation, motorsports, and spending time with his family. In everything, Joe's greatest desire was to point others towards Christ.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Atherton, Brian Feiden, Camden Jones, Mike Jones, Jorge Monsivais, Jim Poston, John Turman, Phil Turman, Tibby Wright, and Steve Youngblood.

If desired, memorials may be made to ALS Therapy Development Institute, an organization focused on developing treatments and a cure for ALS, 300 Technology Square, Suite 400, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church
1607 Troup Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75701

Service

APR 11. 2:30 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church
1607 Troup Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

KU

“ Joe you were the best and will miss you but rejoice that you are with Jesus in Heaven! You were always so kind to Lonny and I. Prayers for your family.
Kelley

Kelley Uzzell - April 12, 2016 at 01:14 AM

CL

“ To Debbie and the Smith family,
It pains me that I couldn't be there today for you. Joe always went out of his way to come give me a hard time, and I always loved it. I knew he did it because he cared for me. So for one reason or the other, he believed in me and went out of his way to help me when no one else knew it. I wouldn't be the man I am today if it wasn't for Joe. I can't wait to see him again and see that smile he always gave me!

Love
Chris

Chris Leonard - April 11, 2016 at 10:51 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joe Allen Smith.



April 11, 2016 at 02:03 PM

JG

“ *Debbie, Toni and family*
I was so sorry to read about the loss of Joe. Joe was always my right hand man while I was still cheerleader sponsor at Lee. I can still see Joe on Thursday nights on top of the basketball goal in the old gym hanging the sign between the two goals - "The sun that sets may never rise but Rebel Spirit never dies." Even though the sun has set for Joe, his spirit will continue to live on in all the lives he has touched. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.
Judy Gross

Judy Gross - April 10, 2016 at 08:26 PM

SL

“ *Debbie, I am so sorry for your loss. Joe was such an incredible man and will be missed by many. You and your family will continue to be in my prayers.*
-Sarah Leonard

Sarah Leonard - April 10, 2016 at 08:25 PM

SZ

“ *Debbie, Toni, and family, I can't find the right words to express how saddened I am for everyone in the loss of Joe. I am carrying you all in my heart and in my prayers. Joe and I were dear friends for years. I can honestly say that he was one of the kindest, most polite, thoughtful, fun, and genuine people I have ever known. His faith was apparent in all he did. He was a gentleman through and through. In this world of good and bad... he was simply one of the best guys around. Hugs and God's grace to each of you.*



Shelley Evans Ziehe - April 10, 2016 at 06:12 PM

MM

“ *Debbie, so sorry to hear of the loss of Joe. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Mark Moore

Mark Moore - April 10, 2016 at 03:34 PM



“ *Joe and Toni were always so kind and patient with their two little cousins (Roger and I) when we would go to visit them. I have many fond memories of Joe playing games with us, driving us to putt- putt, and letting us ride along in the back seat when he had friends to hang out with. What teenage boy does that? Joe did and he was always funny and nice, and I adored him. Rest in peace sweet cousin, til we meet again.*

Pamela Murphy - April 10, 2016 at 01:58 PM

AD

“ *Joe and I were in many of the same classes at REL together: he was always fun to be with. He loved REL and being part of the Lee Gentlemen. As we all look back, those were remarkable years, full of friendships and memories which shaped our thoughts and our lives.*

Wishing the family great peace and joy in this time of loss: as we know, there is a celebration in Heaven and: Joy comes in the morning!

Blessings,

Anne Halbrooks Daub

REL, Class of 1972

Anne Daub - April 10, 2016 at 01:27 PM

LJ

“ Love, Barry and Kay Jones purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Joe Allen Smith.



Love, Barry and Kay Jones - April 10, 2016 at 01:05 PM

SS

“ Joe was the cute, little brother of my wonderful college room mate, Toni. What a sweet brother who cherished his relationship with his sister her family and later his family! I know he will be greatly missed by all but he's finally out of pain. Rest in Peace fellow Longhorn! Prayers to all of us who morn his loss. May his memories last a lifetime.

Shayne Farnsworth Skinner - April 10, 2016 at 09:29 AM



“In 1977, Joe bought a new ORANGE Corvette to celebrate his wonderful life and honor his Alma Mater UT! We were in the Singles department at GABC and had recently renewed a friendship that had existed since we were wee ones growing up at our wonderful church!

....The day Joe finally got the car, he came by my house and took me for a ride in his new chariot! ~ Such fun and laughter as we shared about life and the Lord and his new ~ and soon-to-be-forever-love: Debbie Willman! ~ ...?HOW I thank God for that memory and for the privilege of knowing and loving a life-long friend and brother in the Lord ~ Joe Smith!How BLESSED I have been to call him "friend" for almost 60 years!!!

....I am REJOICING that he has a NEW BODY in the presence of Jesus Christ our Lord and that he is rejoicing and worshipping at the feet of Jesus! What CELEBRATION there will be to meet him again One Day at those GLORIOUS FEET of our Savior!

....Sending MUCH LOVE and continuous prayer to sweet Debbie and all Joe's dear family! God will carry you through this valley I know! 💕 "Weeping endures for the night, but JOY comes in the morning!" Psalm 30....

Teresa Evans - April 09, 2016 at 11:49 PM

IW

“ In deepest sympathy, Brad and Lisa Whisenhunt purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Joe Allen Smith.



In deepest sympathy, Brad and Lisa Whisenhunt - April 09, 2016 at 05:32 PM

EW

“ *Ed, Marilyn, Phillip, Marty, John and Andrew Walker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joe Allen Smith.*



Ed, Marilyn, Phillip, Marty, John and Andrew Walker - April 09, 2016 at 03:06 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Joe Allen Smith.*



April 09, 2016 at 11:27 AM



“ *Truly Beloved Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Allen Smith.*



April 09, 2016 at 10:01 AM

TG

“ I had the good fortune of not only teaching Joe in my American government class at Robert E. Lee High School, but sponsoring the Lee Gentlemen when Joe was a member. He was elected Captain of the Lee Gentlemen his senior year. Joe was selected as one of the few for the Those Who Serve at Lee his senior year. A prince of a person and always highly respected by those around him. He will be greatly missed but, God love him, his struggles are over and I only can pray for peace at last; bless his family.
Tom Gregory

Tom Gregory - April 08, 2016 at 09:19 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joe Allen Smith.



April 08, 2016 at 06:49 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joe Allen Smith.



April 08, 2016 at 04:52 PM

KK

“ During our Senior year at Robert E Lee, Joe was the Captain of the Lee Gentlemen, and I had the honor of being a part of that group with Joe - looking back at Joe's life, that term Gentlemen was a true description of Joe - a quite leader who lead by example - Joe was someone that I always looked up too and admired for his faith, courage, and love of family and friends - I still remember that warm smile that Joe always seemed to have - gone but not forgotten

Kerry Kilgore

Kerry Kilgore - April 08, 2016 at 02:12 PM

LI

“ Our deepest sympathies and prayers for the Smith family. We are so sorry for your loss and pray you will feel the love of God surrounding you all during this time of grief. Love Brad and Lisa Whisenhunt.



lisa - April 08, 2016 at 09:33 AM