



Robert Smith III

January 27, 1946 - July 7, 2013

A memorial service for Robert Leard Smith III, 67, of Tyler, will be held Saturday, July 13, 2013 at 11:00 AM at Marvin United Methodist Church with Dr. Doug Baker and Rev. Perry F. Webb Jr. officiating, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

R.L. passed away on July 7, 2013 after a 13 year courageous battle with cancer.

R.L. was born on January 27, 1946 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Robert L. Smith Jr. and Retta Everette Smith. He graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School in 1963 and Severn School in Severna Park, Maryland in 1964. He attended the University of Virginia and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While at UVA he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the Naval ROTC.

After graduation R.L. was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy, serving as a Lieutenant from 1969 to 1972 aboard the USS Mazama and USS Leahy during the Vietnam War.

Upon leaving the service, R.L. worked as a stockbroker with Dean Witter in Washington, D.C. In 1974 he joined the United States Secret Service as a Special Agent in the Washington, D.C. Field Office. During his career with the Secret Service he was assigned to the Intelligence Division at USSS Headquarters, the Vice Presidential Protective Division for George H.W. Bush,

the Miami Field Office, and was the Resident Agent for the Tyler, Texas Office. In 1995 he transferred to the Rome, Italy Field Office where he was a liaison with foreign governments for counterfeit U.S. obligations, as well as having responsibilities for U.S. dignitaries traveling overseas. R.L. ended his Federal career in the Austin Field Office as the Resident Agent in Charge during the time that Governor George W. Bush became President-Elect. He retired after 26 years of dedicated service and a distinguished career that gave him the opportunity to serve Presidents and Vice Presidents, work with foreign Dignitaries, travel the world, and to be an eyewitness to historical events in the making.

In 2001 R.L. joined the staff of the newly formed Internet Bureau, serving as Chief Investigator under the direction of Texas Attorney General John Cornyn. In 2004 he transferred to Tyler where he was the Manager of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for the Eastern District of Texas. After 10 years of employment with the State of Texas, R.L. again retired. That same year he began work as an Investigative Consultant with the law firm of Ireland, Carroll & Kelley. While health issues restricted his brief career with the firm, he thoroughly enjoyed his time in the “private” sector.

R.L. was a devoted sailing enthusiast his entire life and had the honor of serving as Commodore of the Tyler Yacht Club. He also enjoyed golf, hunting, and was an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates. In later years he also enjoyed following the Texas Rangers. Because of his Scottish heritage, R.L. had a penchant for bagpipe music and was always moved by any rendition of “Scotland the Brave”. He was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church and the Unity Sunday School Class.

Everyone who had the privilege to know and work with R.L. thought of him as a gentleman with a generous soul and giving heart, a dedicated and loving family man, a person of unquestionable character with a strong work ethic, and a man of faith. He was a blessing and a lesson to all on how to be joyful

and how to be courageous – right to the very end.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Diane Smith Schumacher.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Deborah Webb Smith; sons, Walker Smith, Arlington, VA and SPC Phillip Smith, United States Army and by several nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Gary Gross and staff at the Blood and Cancer Center of East Texas and The Hospice of East Texas for their professional and personal care during R.L.'s illness.

Memorial donations may be made to Marvin United Methodist Church, 300 West Erwin St., Tyler, 75702; USO, P.O. Box 96860, Washington, D.C., 20090; or The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, 75701.

Tribute Wall

CS

“ I had the immense pleasure and honor to work with RL during his assignment in Rome, Italy. He was my go-to-guy for just about everything -- we laughed and had fun and probably had a few too many cappuccinos.

I will miss him tremendously.... My heart goes out to you Debroah, Walker and Philip during this time of desperate sadness, but it must comfort you to know that you loved and were loved by such a great man.

*Christine Sarzanini
Rome, Italy*

Christine Sarzanini - July 12, 2013 at 07:37 AM

MN

“ I have such respect and admiration for R.L. He was such a joy to be around. His love for life, positive outlook, and faith, even despite his cancer and medical prognosis, is so inspiring to me. He was so proud of his family and I know he looks down on you - Deborah, Walker and Phillip -with that same pride and love. The world is a different place without R.L.

Mandy Nelson

Mandy Nelson - July 11, 2013 at 10:25 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Smith III.*



July 11, 2013 at 10:21 PM



“ *Donna and Alvin Parish purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert Smith III.*



Donna and Alvin Parish - July 11, 2013 at 03:23 PM



“ *R.L. was a wonderful friend and I am so lucky to have known him. He es a wonderful example of how a person should live their life. R.L. will be greatly missed.*
Dale Lovell

Dale Lovell - July 11, 2013 at 09:28 AM



“ *R.L. was one of the finest men I ever knew. He was helpful, caring, warm and funny. He was looked up to by everyone in the Secret Service. Tremendous loss for all of us. Bob Alberi*

Bob Alberi - July 11, 2013 at 08:16 AM



“ *Imagination Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Smith III.*



July 11, 2013 at 07:45 AM



“ *RL will be deeply missed in our neighborhood. He was such a gentleman and always put a smile on everyone's face. We will miss seeing RL walking his beloved dog Duffy every morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Smith's at this time. God Bless you all. Andrea and Jack Walker*

andrea walker - July 10, 2013 at 11:10 PM



“ *RL possessed a rare blend of integrity, intelligence, compassion, humor and mischief. His memory of people and places was encyclopedic. He was equally likely to make you laugh at him or at yourself. Although he had relationships with powerful people both here and abroad, he was not puffed up or the least bit boastful. He had impeccable taste as most notably shown in his choice of Debra for his bride. And of the many gifts with which he blessed us, certainly the most precious are his sons Walker and Phillip. We love you, RL!*

Andy Cook, Raleigh NC - July 10, 2013 at 09:14 PM

OH

“ R.L. was a wonderful friend to us both. We will miss him greatly. Our lives have been enriched by his presence. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debra, Walker and Phillip at this most difficult time.
Olin & Claudia Hartley

Olin Hartley - July 10, 2013 at 09:52 AM

OH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Olin Hartley - July 10, 2013 at 09:47 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Olin Hartley - July 10, 2013 at 09:42 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Olin Hartley - July 10, 2013 at 09:32 AM

TS

“ We will miss RL. He was a true friend, gentleman and patriot. Our hearts go out to his family as we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. God bless the Smiths.

The Stowes - July 09, 2013 at 04:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Smith III.



July 09, 2013 at 10:09 AM