



Cecil J. Smith

January 11, 1921 - April 11, 2013

Cecil J. Smith, 92, of Willcox, Arizona passed away April 11, 2013 in Tucson. He was born in Ray, Arizona on January 11, 1921 to Sylvia Catherine and Wilfred C. Smith. Cecil was a lifelong Arizona resident and loved southern Arizona. He lived 59 years in Willcox.

Cecil graduated from Prescott High School and started his career with the Bell System. Shortly thereafter, he volunteered to join the US Army.

He served in the US Army during World War II and fought in Europe for 14 months, starting with the 3rd Army, 5th Armored Division, 145th Signal Company. He fought in Normandy, France and then Germany. He was wounded in France where he was awarded a Purple Heart. He continued to serve in the 9th Army Division in Belgium until the war ended.

He met his loving wife Charlene McMinn in Bisbee, Arizona on the Bell System picket line. They were married on August 31, 1947 in Bisbee.

Together they shared a passion for life, family and friends.

Cecil dedicated his career to the Bell System, starting as a lineman. Through hard work and dedication he became the District Manager of Southern Arizona and was known as the "Telephone Man". Additionally, he was a member of the Telephone Pioneers' President's Circle. He retired with 38 years of service when he and his wife Charlene, began full time travel around the world playing golf and meeting new friends.

Cecil spent his life dedicated to his family and the community. He was a member of both the Rotary and Elk's Clubs. He was instrumental in organizing

the first Girl Scouts of America troop in Willcox and planned and sponsored trips to National Parks enriching the lives of many.

Survivors include his daughters Dixie (Darell) Christensen of Phoenix, and Janell (Peter) Helman of Hillsborough, NJ along with 5 grandchildren: Rick Helman, Mark (Caroline) Helman, Michele (Tracy) Day, Janine (Brandin) Beck and Kevin (Melissa) Christensen and 14 great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death was his wife of 57 years Charlene McMinn Smith, his parents, his brother Walton (Grace) Smith and sister Mae (George) Denham.

The Celebration of his Life will be held on Friday, April 19 at 2 p.m., at Westlawn Chapel in Willcox, Arizona. Immediately following the service, a luncheon and reception will be held at the Elk's Club.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Willcox Unified School District for the Golf Team (480 N. Bisbee Ave., Willcox, AZ 85643) or the Northern Cochise Community Hospital Foundation (901 Rex Allen Dr., Willcox, AZ 85643) in memory of Cecil J. Smith.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Crematory

105 S. Arizona Ave.
Willcox, AZ 85643

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 19. 2:00 PM (MT)

Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Inc.
105 S Arizona Avenue
Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2413
westwx@vtc.net
<https://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Cecil J. Smith

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ Dixie and Janelle; so sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. I saw him on Thursday the 4th riding his bike up and down Railroad Ave. while I worked @ the Rex Allen Museum. I thought to myself how wonderful he was looking. So I was really in shock when I heard that he had passed away. I would be out of town tomorrow afternoon. Just know that if I were here I would come to his celebration of Life. Your Long time friend Sandie Hagar Lane.

Sandie Hagar Lane - April 18, 2013 at 11:53 PM



“ We love you Great Grandpa! Thanks for spending Christmas with us in New Jersey.



Janell Helman - April 15, 2013 at 10:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Janell Helman - April 15, 2013 at 08:55 PM

JH

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Janell Helman - April 15, 2013 at 08:49 PM

KM

“ Cecil could always be counted on to both smile and to speak his mind, both attributes I admire.. I so enjoyed the 4th of July parties and Janell & Peter's home and other times when we got to visit with him. In later years I loved hearing about his adventures on his Bike! Hugs to all of the family as you mourn his great loss.

Kathy Matlesky - April 15, 2013 at 09:41 AM

AL

“ Happy memories in the Helman's back yard and on the golf course with Cecil on his yearly visits to New Jersey. My deepest sympathy to the entire family.

Anne Lopresti

Anne Lopresti - April 13, 2013 at 06:45 PM

CH

“ We love you great grandpa and will think of you always!
Nicholas, Sarah and Samantha Helman

Caroline and Mark Helman - April 13, 2013 at 01:37 PM

GH

“ *Janell, Peter, and Family- We're so sorry to hear about Cecil's death. In lieu of flowers we'd like to send a memorial to the golf course he played at, in both your mom and dad's names. Could you please send us the complete address? Thank you.*

Tim and Gretchen

Gretchen Helman - April 13, 2013 at 10:15 AM

PP

“ *I was sorry to hear of the passing of Cecil. We spent many, many hours of enjoyment on the golf course and just visiting with both Cecil & Charlene. They are in a much better place now and at peace together again. You have my sympathy.*

Pat Pinson

Pat Pinson - April 12, 2013 at 08:43 AM