



Donald R. Smythe

July 9, 1946 - July 15, 2019

Donald Smythe, 73, sealed his place in the Kingdom of God on Monday, July 15th 2019.

Donald was born July 9, 1946 and grew to be a devoted man of God, who's wise counsel and ability to make people laugh was beloved by his family and church brethren. At the time of his death and every day before, Donald was madly in love with his wife of 43 years: Frances Loise Smythe. They met while he was doing a routine arson investigation as a Sheriff's Deputy for Santa Cruz County. He was smitten while taking her witness statement and after a few months proposed. They were married October 16, 1976, and in the course of their marriage they lived in 5 states and raised 5 children. Donald was a proud veteran Navy Corpsman in the Vietnam War, and served as a Detective with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department. He became an ordained minister in 1997, and was 30+ year employee of the Federal Government. He was the Chemical Operations Directorate until 2006 when he retired to Arizona with his wife and dogs. Donald was a dedicated hunter and fisherman, and a lover of children and animals. Few things made him happier than camping with his family and pups, and his day spent in a good fishing hole.

He is preceded in death by his father Jesse, his mother Lois, and his son Ernest (wife Deborah). He is survived by his wife Frances Smythe, and his children Mellisa Borges (husband Richard) of CA, Bret Smythe (wife Lisa) of AZ, and Bonnie Smythe and Stephanie Dickie of OR. Donald was a proud grandfather of 14 and great-grandfather of 13.

As per his wishes, his family will spread his ashes in Plumas National Forest, CA where his most treasured childhood memories were made and his love of the outdoors was born.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald R. Smythe*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *I will never forget the big hug that he gave to Ernie and I when he found us. We were stupid enough to have gotten lost in that lovely forest. Seeing him get out of the truck, we were all crying. Scary stuff for a 9 and 7 year old or some age like that. He will always be that person for me big and strong. My heart is with you all. Leslie*

Leslie Cuff Davis - July 23, 2019 at 12:13 AM



“ *Donalds famous chicken enchaladas! Dary raved about them after coming back from that first Rendevous, and how Donald thought it was so funny that Dary liked them cold for breakfast. I remember watching him make them so closely so that I could replicate them. Mine were close but will never match the master. We will miss him very much. Love to all. Galen and Dary*

GalenThompson - July 22, 2019 at 02:05 AM



“ *Connie and Terry Grade purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Donald R. Smythe.*



Connie and Terry Grade - July 22, 2019 at 01:29 AM