



Kenneth L. Smith

November 4, 1935 - May 22, 2015

Kenneth L. Smith of Willcox died May 22, 2015 in Tucson at the age of 79. He was born in La Veta, Colorado on November 4, 1935 to Harold and Alice (Lester) Smith. Ken served in the United States Air Force from 1954 until 1958. He was a retire banker with Valley National Bank, was a real estate agent and appraiser working for Fowler Realty in Willcox. Ken at one time had a private pilot's license and was always a fan of aviation. He enjoyed the outdoor life of hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and back packing. Ken belonged to the Tucson Rod & Gun Club and the Southern Arizona Hiking Club where he was a guide for many years. He was a member of the Willcox Lions Club, and volunteered with Boy Scout Troop 409 with there hikes. Ken would also help his wife Norma at home with the toddler's they cared for. He was a member of Grace Chapel. In November of 1965 in Tucson he married Norma Harris who survives him. He is also survived by his daughter Sharon Cornell of Tucson and his son Thomas Smith of Pleasant Hill, Iowa and 1 grandson and 2 great grandsons of Luther, Michigan. His brother Emmett Layton (Judy) Smith of Avondale, Arizona and his sister Carol (Ron) Davis of Rushville, New York also survive him. Preceding him in death was a brother Charlie Smith and his wife Nancy of Thayne, Wyoming and his parents. Memorial Services will be 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at Grace Chapel with a flag presentation by Davis Monthan AFB Elite Honor Guard. Contributions may be made to the Willcox Food Pantry or Charity of your choice. Services entrusted to Westlawn Chapel, Mortuary and Crematory of

Willcox, Arizona. On line condolences may be expressed at www.westlawncapelmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Crematory

105 S. Arizona Ave.
Willcox, AZ 85643

Previous Events

Memorial

JUN 20. 10:00 AM (MT)

Grace Chapel
753 W. Maley Street
Willcox, AZ 85643

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth L. Smith*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM

MR

“ To some, he was a strong and handsome U.S. airman and pilot. To some, he was a sharp businessman, banker and appraiser. Some knew him as a fellow Lions Club member and some knew him as a Boy Scout guide. He was a loving father, devoted husband, and active church member. And he sure was a stickler when it came to school board or city council issues. He was all of these things and more. But to our family, he was Papa Ken.

Papa Ken was a riveting story-teller with enough love in his heart for lots of children and their parents too. To Sarah and Daniel, Papa Ken was the man who always had a smile on his lips and a twinkle in his eye, even when one of the children was naughty. Papa Ken took time to play and even garden with the children. He helped them go to sleep at nap time by just being near and talking to them. When Sarah was put on a strict diet, Papa Ken knew when to keep the rules and when to bend them just a little by sneaking her a smidgen of a forbidden food. And once, when Sarah was acting up just a bit, Papa Ken taught her the meaning of "discretion," a word she still remembers today. Most of all, Papa Ken always made sure our children knew that he loved them "to the moon and back and ten thousand times around the Milky Way."

And to us young and inexperienced parents, Papa Ken was a wealth of support and guidance on everything from first time home ownership to house repairs to bringing up our babies. He was a man we could look up to because he always stood up for what was right no matter what people thought of him.

I will never forget one particular lesson Papa Ken once taught us when we were worried about an issue with Daniel. He asked a simple question, "Do you really trust God with everything?" Of course, we said that we did. "Well then," he stated confidently, "pray about it and trust God to handle it. I mean, don't you think God loves Daniel even more than you do?" That golden nugget has been the most important parenting advice we have ever had and we have

applied it over and over again as the children have grown. The fruit of this application has been priceless and we hope to pass it on to generations to come.

We love you, Papa Ken, and we do trust God. We trust that, because of your faith in Christ, He has welcomed you into His presence and that we'll see you again someday. We love you to the moon and back and ten thousand times around Milky Way.

Matt, Sherri, Sarah, and Daniel Roberts

Matt and Sherri Roberts - June 18, 2015 at 11:37 PM

MY

“Where do you begin to write a memory with such a memorable person as Ken? Guess it would be best to start at the beginning. Ken Smith was one of the first persons we met in Willcox, when we decided to build the first “spec” house in Ironwood Manor in 1992. We were there on a Sunday morning, chalking out the lines for the floor plan framing on the newly poured concrete slab. Ken walked over from his nearby residence. He opened the conversation with “You must be the owners, to be working here on a Sunday”. We said that we were the owners but that we planned to build the house to sell, and not as our personal residence. And so began the first of many, many conversations about Ironwood Manor and the City of Willcox and eventually an ever expanding number of subjects. To say that Ken was a font of information would be an understatement. He had a level of intelligence and analytical thought that was both a welcome challenge and a pleasure to engage. We are happy to have known him and will miss him immensely.

Mike and June York

Mike and June York - June 15, 2015 at 06:37 PM