



Bretney Smith Jr.

November 22, 1928 - February 3, 2018

Bretney Smith, Jr., 89, of Asheville, died on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at his home at Givens Estates.

A native and life long resident of Asheville he was born on November 22, 1928 to the late Bretney Smith and Elizabeth “Boots” Brown Smith. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his son, William Bretney Smith; his sister, Mary Elizabeth McMahan, and her husband Frank; and his nephew, Robert Alexander McMahan.

He attended Asheville School for Boys before transferring to Darlington School for Boys in Rome, GA. He graduated with a BS from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill before joining the United States Navy. Upon his return home he graduated from North Carolina State University’s School of Forestry. His new degree led him to take in job in Birmingham, AL where he met the love of his life Coleman Cross of Gadsden, AL. They married and they returned home to Asheville to join his father in the family business, Swannanoa Cleaners becoming the third generation to do so, he retired in 2016.

Bretney was a member of Quality Forward, Asheville Rotary Club, Civitan, Biltmore Forest Country Club, DeKe fraternity at UNC, Chairman of the Board of Asheville Savings Bank, on the board of Stewards at Central United

Methodist Church, a past President of the North Carolina Dry Cleaning Association, on the board at CarePartners, and on the board at Givens Estates.

He enjoyed all things outdoors, hunting, fishing especially at his home at Lake Tahoma and was on the tennis team at UNC. Bretney was a lover of animals, collegiate sports and most of all his family. He was a devoted husband, father and uncle. He will be truly missed by all that knew and loved him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Coleman Cross Smith; his daughter, Elizabeth Stacy Smith and her wife, Susan McCreary of Asheville; his brother, Canie Brown Smith and his wife, Lyn Roda of Asheville; his niece, Whitney DeVargas and her husband, Roberto of Asheville; his nephew, Blake Smith of Asheville; his nephew, Thomas Bretney McMahan and his wife, Susan C. Lewis of Asheville; his niece, Bea King and her husband, Bruce of Florence, SC; his niece, Ginger Finder and her husband, Robert of Spartanburg, SC; his nephew, Robert Wilder and his wife, Susanne of Colombia, SC; and his nephew, Todd Cross and his wife, Sally of Montgomery, AL.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, February 8, 2018 in the Norma F. Pulliam Chapel in Asbury Commons of Givens Estates, with Dr. Rob Blackburn officiating. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery. The family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 PM in the Chapel Conference Room.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Asheville Humane Society, 14 Forever Friend Lane, Asheville, NC 28806, or to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, 31 Glendale Ave, Asheville, NC 28803.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

53 Birch Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Norma F. Pulliam Chapel in Asbury Commons of Givens Estate
2360 Sweeten Creek Road
Asheville, NC 28803
<http://www.givensestates.org/>

Reception

FEB 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Norma F. Pulliam Chapel in Asbury Commons of Givens Estate
2360 Sweeten Creek Road
Asheville, NC 28803
<http://www.givensestates.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bretney Smith Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I attended DARLINGTON with Bretney...good student and a friend go ALL students..*

Parnick Jennings,Sr. - February 23, 2018 at 04:09 AM



“ *I was very sorry to just now learn of Bretney's passing. I was glad I got to know him during my time in the Rotary Club of Asheville. He was always so kind to me and I enjoyed his wry sense of humor and keen observations. Please know I am keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. – Kathleen O'Nan, Tryon, N.C.*

Kathleen O'Nan - February 21, 2018 at 08:09 AM



“ *DEAR STACY AND FAMILY, YOUR DAD WAS VERY SPECIAL AND WE BE MISSED BY MANY. HE WAS A TRUE GENTLEMAN; MAY GOD BE WITH YOU IN YOUR TIME OF LOSS, MAC*

MAC SWICEGOOD - February 09, 2018 at 08:56 AM



“ *My deep condolences to old Hazeltine school buddy.
Bob Hunter*

Bob Hunter - February 07, 2018 at 01:53 PM

RH

“ Remembering Bretney from our involvement in community activities over the years. He was a true gentleman and a very generous person. My condolences to his family and friends.

Richard Hurley - February 07, 2018 at 11:11 AM

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“ Mr. Smith was the person who interviewed me & hired me 33 years ago. I have many great & funny memories of our time together at Swannanoa Cleaners. He will be missed.

Colleen Hogan - February 06, 2018 at 02:03 PM