



John D. Smith

March 31, 1934 - August 24, 2018

John D. Smith, 84, of Asheville passed away peacefully on Friday, August 24, 2018 at home, surrounded by family, after a long battle with cancer. He was born on March 31, 1934 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, the eighth of nine children of Jim and Mayme Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jim, Bob, Bill and Wayne; sisters, Burma and Marva and his loving wife, Dorothy. He is survived by his wife, Jo Anne; daughter, Kim Miller (Jon); son, Jeff (Lucia); brother, Tom of Kalamazoo, MI; sister, Betty Wourms of Columbia, SC; grandchildren, Eryn Miller, Katie Miller, Ryan Miller, Justin Smith, Daniel Smith; great-grandson, Asher Hall and daughter-in-law, Julie Leach Smith.

John loved singing and was very active in Barbershop singing, where he was a longtime member of the Asheville Chapter Chorus, a member of the Barbershop Quartet "Dixie by Choice" and the Frank Thorne Chapter of the Dixie District of SPEBQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America). He served in many leadership roles in Barbershoppers, including President of the Dixie District and was inducted into the Dixie District Hall of Fame in 2016. He was also active in church, serving as an Elder or Deacon on several occasions. He served as an Usher at Groce United Methodist, volunteered on many community service projects including Habitat for Humanity, Katrina Relief, the Pumpkin Patch and The Welcome Table. He was a leader in Boy Scouts for a time and coached

Little League Baseball for several years.

John was always a hard worker and “retired” three times. First, he “retired” from Sears, Roebuck and Company as Commercial Sales Manager after 25 years. He then “retired” from Allied Insulation as a Sales Manager. Finally, at 80, he retired from Brooks Howell Home as the Director of Environmental Services.

UPDATE

The Memorial Service HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED at Groce United Methodist Church, 954 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC, FOR Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 1:00 PM with a visitation/reception to follow at the Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the Groce United Methodist Memorial Fund 954 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC 28805.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **29**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC 28805

Tribute Wall



“ *John D. Smith*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Mr. and Mrs. Smith (would never think of saying John and Dot) came into our famiy's life when we moved next door to them when I was 8 years old. They became our second family. My brother and I spent as much time at their home as our own. Kim and Jeff were like our brother and sister (fights sometimes included like real siblings). Our parents would play cards for hours and then wake us up to go home. We spent a lot of time camping together where they taught us how to waterski. I always brought girlfriends by for them to meet. They taught all the right things to make Kim and Jeff the adult they are now and I can honestly say they had a very large impact on me becoming the person I am. I will really miss them.*

Doug Brooks - August 29, 2018 at 12:08 AM

JS

“ Uncle John was the eighth born of the nine children of James and Euphemia (Mame) Smith. He was only 16 when I was born and I remember him as a big brother, a hero, and a friend. When he got engaged to nurse Dorothy, he was living in an apartment in Grandpa and Grandma's International Motel complex in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. I remember how proud he was when he invited my family up to meet his fiance. He just beamed! That was how he always looked at her.

He came to visit me whenever the Barbershop Quartet group sang in a town near me. He had a hint of that same "beam" that he wore when he looked at Dorothy whenever he saw me. I always knew I was loved by my Uncle John. And his voice still echoes in my heart as I think of him. The Smith family loved singing together - and when all of us joined our voices together it felt like we were joining our hearts together. There was such love in our family.

Jon McCauley Smith - August 28, 2018 at 10:17 PM

JL

“ John was my boss in Environmental Services at Brooks-Howell Home. He treated us all fairly and usually had a solution to our problems that would arise every now and then. When my husband was very ill and I missed a lot of work days, John graciously donated his PTO time to me so that I wouldn't lose any pay. John was a generous, kind man and not only was he my boss but I considered him my friend. I will always remember John fondly and will never forget his famous response....."Take care of yourself kid". Rest In Peace John. You will be missed.

Julie Latino - August 28, 2018 at 01:04 PM

RB

“ My fondest memory of John was when he and I walked Luci down the "aisle" at the Flying Pig races in Cincinnati. Jeff and Luci had made arrangements with the race director to let them get married on Friday evening after the usual 1 mile race at the event. Jeff, Luci, John, and lots of their running friends "strolled" the 1 mile to the Finish area. The wedding party then took over the main stage in the Finish area and Jeff waited on the stage while John and I walked Luci up to the stage and Jeff. It was a joyous occasion and John was one person who definitely added to the joy.

Rod Bailey - August 28, 2018 at 11:15 AM

DS

“ My memories of John involve his singing in barbershop quartets. Such a kind, loving man with a wonderful family. He will be missed.

Dot Schneider - August 28, 2018 at 11:13 AM