Gary Richard Smith

October 20, 1932 - April 17, 2015

Gary Richard Smith, age 82, died on April 17, 2015, in Provo, Utah.

Gary is survived by his wife of 43 years, Rita Palmer Smith, of Brigham City, Utah, and his children, Andrew (Amy), Paula (Ben), Jamie (Andy), Maren (Danny), Stephen (Crystal) and David (Logan). He is preceded in death by his parents, Alma Gibson Smith and Maud Bodell Jensen Smith of Pocatello, Idaho and his sisters, Betty Jean and Bodell, and his brothers, Alma Gibson (Smitty) and Donald William.

Gary was born on October 20, 1932, in Pocatello, Idaho. He graduated from Idaho State College in 1954 with a degree in Business, then served an LDS mission in California. In 1956 he began three years of service in the U.S. Army.

Gary loved learning and spent his life teaching others. He taught high school for several years and concurrently worked on his master's degree. In 1967, he earned his doctorate from the University of Idaho and began teaching at Utah State University. Two years later, he began teaching at Brigham Young University.

In 1972, he met and married Rita Ann Palmer. In 1984, they moved to Laie, Hawaii where Gary taught at BYU-Hawaii and established the Hotel &

Restaurant Management program. After 13 wonderful years there, he retired and moved back to Provo, Utah where, in 2003, he and Rita served a two-year LDS mission at the Missionary Training Center.

Funeral services will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 3180 North 300 West; Lehi, Utah on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at 11:00 am. A viewing will be held prior to the services from 9:30 to 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Gary's life. The family would like to thank all those who have provided flowers, food and kindness.

Cemetery Details

Brigham City Cemetery

325 S 3rd E
Brigham City, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

APR **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Lehi LDS 300 W
3180 N 300 W
Lehi, UT

Funeral Service

APR **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Lehi LDS 300 W
3180 N 300 W
Lehi, UT

Tribute Wall

Gary Richard Smith

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM

CF

Carol F. purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Gary Richard Smith.

Carol F. - April 24, 2015 at 09:47 AM

Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Richard Smith.

April 22, 2015 at 06:01 PM

DL

Rita and all the family:
Nancy and I are saddened to learn of the passing of this great man. His gift for touching and changing lives will be greatly missed and is sorely needed in this day and age. I am one of many that would not have had the career that I have had were it not for his efforts in my behalf. He counseled me at Utah State to consider Distributive Education and his role model in the classroom confirmed every time I attended class that he was the kind of teacher I really wanted to become. I know it was his intervention at Weber State University that provided me with an opportunity to begin my teaching career there. I retired after 43 years and still to adjunct teaching because of the love of teaching he instilled within my heart. He was a good friend and someone I could go to for advice which I did on many occasions. I have followed his career from USU to BYU and then to BYU Hawaii. Nancy I and both will never forget the time we were able to visit your family there. I have treasured the Christmas Cards that were sent every since since I graduated and that was is 1969. That example of still caring 46 years after having me in class will never be forgotten. We know his is doing another great teaching mission in his next assignment and still is touching and changing lives. We pray for you and all your family that the Comforter will bring you peace along with the knowledge that this is only a temporary separation. You will all be together again and you will yet feel his presence here as you continue in your journey. We love him and will never forget him.
Dan & Nancy Litchford
Ogden, Utah

Dan Litchford - April 21, 2015 at 05:46 PM

DL

Rita and family,

My wife and I would love to express our deepest love and prayers to you at this time. Gary (as he would never have his students call him Dr. Smith) was the teacher in my life that opened up the door for a 35 year teaching career. He personally influenced the administration at Utah Technical College in 1980 to take a risk in hiring a 23 year old "hick" from Deweyville. While taking classes from him at BYU from 1978-1980, he taught me that a teacher must have a great passion, always be prepared, and have great love and care for his students. He always dealt with people on a first name basis. I enjoyed going golfing with him and his oldest son on Friday's after a long week of classwork at the "Y." Most of my teaching philosophy, style, and methods are modeled after what he demonstrated within the classroom. However, most importantly is what he modeled outside of the typical classroom in the real classroom of life--a love for family and for the Savior. His light of love that he placed and kindled within my heart will always be glowing and I will always remember his quick whit and straightforward advice.

Love,

David and Kenna Litchford

David Litchford - April 21, 2015 at 04:33 PM