



Clayton Smith

January 3, 1937 - July 2, 2024

Clayton Smith, 87, went to be with the Lord on July 2, 2024. He was born January 3, 1937, to Elmer and Bessie Smith on the Smith Farm at Grape Creek in Navarro County, TX.

He was a 1954 graduate of Mildred High School. On December 23, 1954, he married Dorothy Jamison of Corsicana. After graduation, Clayton proudly served his country and was a veteran of the United States Air Force where he served four years. He began his training in the Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol Academy on December 2, 1958. This was only the start of a career that defined who he was as a Law Enforcement Officer but more importantly, who he was as a servant of God first, and then of the people of his beloved State of Texas. He would go on to give Texas and the Department of Public Safety 41 years of his life.

During his Highway Patrol years Smith worked many significant cases. In 1962, he worked the train derailment in Chandler, Texas which resulted in evacuating the entire city. On May 3, 1968 he was instrumental in the investigation regarding the Braniff Airline crash in Dawson, Texas. The plane involved 5 crew members and 80 passengers. There were no survivors. However, his most life changing Highway Patrol event was on October 16, 1975, on a random traffic stop that resulted in a gun battle that almost took his life. Gunfire was exchanged between Smith and the motorist who later was known to have committed several robberies over the past days. After the shooting was over, Smith had an empty service revolver and the assailant still

had three hollow point bullets remaining with an extra clip in his pocket. Anyone else might think that was enough, but God was not finished with Clayton Smith.

In 1979 Clayton was commissioned into the highly prestigious Texas Rangers. He investigated many high profile cases during his 14 years as a Ranger. He investigated serial killers and helped law enforcement agencies all over the US solve murder cases. He worked the 51-day standoff Waco siege in 1993, of the Branch Dividian Compound at Mt. Carmel. He also investigated the Luby's Massacre in Killeen, Texas on October 16, 1991. During those years as a Ranger, Smith was certified in hypnosis. This allowed him the ability to help victims of crimes give details about their assailant that might otherwise go unnoticed and resulted in many solved cases. These cases are just examples of the many hours of investigative work Smith participated in during his legendary career as a Texas Ranger. In 2010 he received the distinguished DPS Purple Heart for bravery.

However, the part of his life that he willingly shared about the most was his love for Jesus and his family. He loved people from all walks of life and he loved sharing the Gospel with everyone he met. His whole purpose for going into Law Enforcement was so that he could serve others. In 1976 he was ordained a Minister. From that day forward, God used him to preach in countless pulpits in Texas. Locally, he served as interim and guest pastors for First Baptist Church in Streetman, First Baptist Church of Powell and Emmanuel Baptist Church in Corsicana. Most recently, Clayton Smith helped at the Good News Café at FBC Corsicana. He brought a devotional there every Monday where he not only wanted people to be fed physically but had a burning desire to see them fed spiritually. He was the definition of a good and faithful servant to the very end of his earthly life.

He is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Dorothy Jamison Smith; daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Mike McCary of Corsicana; daughter and son-in-law, Sheri and Paul Warner of Thorndale; grandchildren, Emily and Brad Gentry, Josh and Andie Warner, Drew and Leslie McCary, Tyler and Cari

Warner, Jared and Olivia Smith, Braden Smith, and Mackenzie Smith; great grandchildren, Jack, Annabelle, Luke, Henry, Hank and two more on the way. Two nephews, Neal Parks and David Smith. He is preceded in death by his son Timothy Clayton Smith, Mother and Father, Elmer and Bessie Smith, a brother Afton Smith and his sister Hazel Smith Parks.

Visitation will be Monday, July 8, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 pm at First Baptist Church. Funeral Service will be Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10:00 am at First Baptist Church with Dr. Danny Reeves officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Good News Cafe 510 W. Collin St. Corsicana, Texas 75110

Cemetery Details

Grape Creek Cemetery

9500 SE County Road 1020
Corsicana, TX 75109

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
510 West Collin
Corsicana, TX 75110

Funeral Service

JUL 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
510 West Collin
Corsicana, TX 75110

Dr. Danny Reeves officiating

Tribute Wall



“ *Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Clayton Smith*



Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home - July 08, 2024 at 01:47 PM

CM

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Clayton Smith. Thank you for your service and thank you for being such a good friend to my parents, Bob and Jerry Mitchell. Rest in Peace!

Carol Matthieson - July 09, 2024 at 12:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clayton Smith.*



July 09, 2024 at 11:52 AM

HL

“ It has been a privilege and pleasure to know Mr. Smith for so many years. Clayton was a man of integrity, compassion, and kindness. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loving family. May they find comfort and peace in this time of sorrow. Nancy and Heather Lamb



Heather Lamb - July 08, 2024 at 08:35 PM

TF

“ The Harpole Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Clayton Smith.



The Harpole Family - July 08, 2024 at 04:50 PM

WM

“ With Heartfelt Condolences, The Murrays purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Clayton Smith.



With Heartfelt Condolences, The Murrays - July 08, 2024 at 09:34 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Clayton Smith.



July 07, 2024 at 02:37 PM

LH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Larry & Lisa Hoppe



Larry & Lisa Hoppe - July 07, 2024 at 02:07 AM

DW

“ *I have been blessed to know Clayton and worship with him at FBC Corsicana. Clayton brought the word to the people who came to The Good News Cafe on Monday mornings. He did this after 4 hours of being on dialysis. Clayton felt he had to continue to serve his Lord as long as he could. Clayton was getting weak and we were telling him he did not need to keep coming. He would not stop until he found someone to replace him. Clayton definitely showed me what a true Christian was. He witnessed with everything he had. The song, "Thank You" keeps playing in my mind. It states thank you, for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed. Clayton definitely touched me and made me want to be a better Christian. His memory will never die. I am so blessed to have known him*

Donna Whittenburg - July 06, 2024 at 09:10 PM

CC

“ *My prayers and blessings go out to you and your family. I have special memories of you and Clayton visiting with my parents Elmer and Amy Lou when I was a child. Clayton was an excellent role model for Navarro County during his life and he will be remembered as one of the Great Residents!*

Carolyn Ann Carr - July 05, 2024 at 11:50 PM

JC

“ Loved this man and his family dearly, and I pray for blessings on his loved ones today. While I was pastor at Westside Baptist, Clayton taught the young married couples' class and was a tremendously positive influence in such lives. I never thought of Clayton in past years but what that one particular Day in his life came to mind, and I still recall it quite well God spared him that day for Ministry Extra-Ordinary: rest in peace, oh Great Peace Officer.

Jim Caraway - July 05, 2024 at 02:58 PM

WC

“ Wade, Melanie, Kirby & Trevor Cooper purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Clayton Smith.



Wade, Melanie, Kirby & Trevor Cooper - July 05, 2024 at 12:03 PM

PS

“ Our condolences on the death of your loved one. He was a soldier for the Lord and Law Enforcement.
The Sonny Sessions Family

Peggy Sessions - July 05, 2024 at 08:49 AM

CA

“ Cordelia Albritton lit a candle in memory of Clayton Smith



Cordelia Albritton - July 04, 2024 at 07:51 PM

DL

“ My prayers go out to Claytons family. I have know the family all my life. Clayton served as co-pastor at my dads funeral. My dad always said I want Clayton to do my funeral which he did along with my dads and mine pastor. I have no doubt he is in Heaven with many family members and many friends. We will all see Clayton again someday.



Debbie Watson Lake - July 04, 2024 at 07:44 PM

DS

“ David and Judy Smith purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Clayton Smith.



David and Judy Smith - July 03, 2024 at 04:53 PM

DS

“ David and Judy Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clayton Smith.

David and Judy Smith - July 03, 2024 at 04:53 PM