



H. Smith

July 19, 1922 - August 24, 2013

H. Selwyn Smith

Circuit Court Judge and former Secretary of Public Safety for the Commonwealth of Virginia

Retired Circuit Court Judge H. Selwyn Smith passed away peacefully Saturday August 24, 2013; surrounded by his family. He died knowing that the newest member of his family had been born 72 hours earlier, managing a slight smile and a twinkle in his eyes when hearing the news and seeing a picture of his new great-grandson. Judge Smith was 91 years old.

Born on July 19, 1922, in Manassas, he was raised on the family farm in Nokesville, Virginia that had been in his father's family for generations. He served his country as an Army Captain during World War II; earning several battlefield decorations. He was seriously wounded in the Allied push into Germany in March of 1945, and was hospitalized for five months.

After the war Judge Smith married Virginia Margaret Busk, (Jenny) of Plant City Florida. Their romance journeyed through 64 years until her passing in November of 2009. Jenny and Selwyn raised four children. Together, Jenny and Selwyn passed on fabulous memories of growing up on the "farm;" known as "Smitherwood".

Judge Smith graduated from Virginia Tech in 1943, in an accelerated class of potential officers and soldiers. While at Tech he served as a Company Commander in the Corp of Cadets, and earned his Bachelor's degree, in Agricultural Sciences. After the war and as newlyweds Judge Smith and Jenny traveled across the country for two years to fulfill his assigned military duties at a number of different military bases. It was during this time that he solidified his desire to pursue a career in law.

In the summer of 1947 he enrolled, in an accelerated law program at the University of Virginia earning his degree in two years. A month later he established his law practice in

Manassas becoming one of only eight attorneys in the area at that time.

In 1960 he was elected Commonwealth's Attorney of Prince William County. In 1972 he was elected to serve in the Virginia Senate for a four year term. In 1976 he was appointed by Governor Mills Godwin to assume the newly legislated position of Secretary of Public Safety; and he continued to serve in that position for the term of Governor John Dalton. In 1980 he was appointed to serve as Circuit Court judge of Prince William County. He retired from that position on June 30, 1993, but continued to serve as a substitute Circuit Court judge for ten years.

Judge Smith often remarked that he was honored to serve the Commonwealth in all three branches of government. In 1999, the Virginia Bar Association recognized him for "Fifty Years of Outstanding Legal Service" to the Commonwealth.

Judge Smith is survived by his two sons and two daughters. Victor A. Smith and his wife Robin of Richmond, Virginia; Alison Smith Dixon and her husband Michael; Steven Selwyn Smith and his wife Jane; and Carolyn Smith Jacobs and her husband Brad, all residents of Manassas, Virginia. In addition Judge Smith is survived by nine grandchildren and four great- grandchildren. Judge Smith was the remaining patriarch of a large family, having been preceded in death by his parents Harold and Lucy Smith, and his two brothers and his sister, Harry Smith, Ray Smith and Naomi Smith Nace. He was a loved and respected uncle and advisor to his nine nieces and nephews and their families.

Throughout his final year of life Judge Smith was surrounded by family, friends, and his caregivers. The entire family is especially grateful for the compassion, comfort, and dignity provided their father and grandfather by these extraordinary ladies.

The family will receive family and friends from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas VA. The funeral service for Judge Smith will be held at the church at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 28, 2013. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that expressions of sympathy in memory of Judge H. Selwyn and Jenny Smith be directed to Grace United Methodist Church, 9750 Wellington Road, Manassas, Virginia 20110.

Tribute Wall

DD

“ Selwyn's father was my mother Frances's older brother. Early last year, Selwyn showed the uncommon decency of calling to say how much he appreciated how, when his mother Lucy was old and frail in Florida, Frances was a companion and caregiver to her. We talked on the phone several times in recent years; he was most informative of the early years of our family, very proud of his own family, acute in memory and intelligence, and unfailingly kind and polite.

David Dawson - September 03, 2013 at 11:49 AM

CK

“ During the wedding party for Callie I discovered in Selwyn's office that he was a WWII vetran. Spent 30 minutes or more asking questions about his service. As most of the Great Generation Selwyn said it was just what was expected. A great Virginian for all of thoes 91 years.

Chris Kidd - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

JL

“ The Smith Family, Our deepest sympathy to you all. Another Manassas True Gentleman has passed on. He was truly a wonderful man, I had many conversations with Mr. Smith over the years. I served on Jury Duty six times and three of those Mr. Smith appointed me Foreman. He always had great advice for me. He truly lived a wonderful life and was one of our true Americans. May God Bless YOur all during this sad and cherish the memories of his life. I was truly blessed to have known him, attend school with his children and be a part of the community he loved so much.

Jo & Lester - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

KT

“ From our first meeting, Uncle Selwyn's laugh was warm and welcoming to me when meeting all the Smith family at a wedding. Ever since, he was quick with that laugh and interested in my own family that had ties from long ago. Each of his kids, Steve and Jane, Alison and Mike, Carolyn and Brad, and even Vic and Robin in Richmond were especially kind to me, something I won't forget. My mother knew Selwyn back from days of college, and when hearing of his passing, wiped a tear from her eyes. We join all his large family and friends in their great admiration of a wonderful man!
Katharine and Nancy Taylor

Katharine Taylor - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

LK

“ We will always remember Judge Smith having that huge smile and always so kind and loved his family so much
Our prayers are with all of you

Leon & Mary Flores and Conrad Korzendorfer - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

FJ

“ May God Bless HimY

Fred L Randall, Jr - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

RS

“ To the children and family of Judge Smith, Vic, Allison, Steve and Carolyn, I send my deepest sympathy from my family for the loss of your father. He was a great human being serving his country and community well. Our fathers, Harold and Simon were brothers.

Ron Smith - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

GK

“ Alison. I was saddened to hear of the passing of your father. What a nice man he was. Kathy and I enjoyed lunch with him and Joanna Mallard two years ago in Florida and were hoping to do it again this coming winter. I hope you and Mike and your siblings are doing well. Kathy and I send our condolences and hope to see you soon. Gary

Gary. E. Kline - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

WH

“ As former Clerk of Circuit Court in Fauquier County, I had pleasure of working with Judge Smith during his retirement years and have some fond memories of his visits while sitting on the bench. We all enjoyed having him. I send my deep sympathy to the family members

Willam D. Harris - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

MA

“ Steve and Jane we are sorry for your lost and want you to know that thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,
Robert and Maribel Alvarez

maribel alvarez - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

JL

“ Hugs and kisses to all the Smiths. I am sorry for your loss. Sewlyn was a true gentleman and patriot. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy in each of you. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Judy Oliver Lee

Judy Lee - January 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM