



Chaplain LTC Retired Gerald H. Smith

FEB 12, 1938 - MAY 25, 2012



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Funeral services for Chaplain LTC Retired Gerald H. Smith, 74, of Leesville, Louisiana will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 27, 2012, at First Baptist Church in Leesville, with Rev. Wallace Palmer, Rev. Larry White & Rev. Jeremy Blocker officiating. Burial will be held on Monday, May 28, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Bogue Chitto, MS, under the direction of Labby Memorial Funeral Home of Leesville.

Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday, May 26th, at Labby Memorial Funeral Home in Leesville.

Gerald, the son of Colton and Radie Mae Smith was born February 12, 1938, in Port Arthur, TX. He passed away Friday, May 25th, in Leesville, LA.

He served as pastor of many churches from 1959-1970 in Mississippi and Alabama. He joined the U.S. Army in 1970 where he was a Captain and served as a Chaplain at Fort Hood, TX, Fort Rucker, AL, Fishbach, Germany, Fort Wadsworth, NY, Korea, Viet Nam, Johnston Atoll, HI, and Fort Polk, LA. At Ft. Polk, he was the Main Post Chaplain from 1979-1981 and has served as Chaplain for many other battalions while stationed there and became the Division Staff Chaplain of the 5th Infantry Division in 1987-1989. He earned the Bronze Star in Vietnam. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1989. He re-entered the civilian workforce and served as pastor of the following churches from 1989-2012, Simpson Baptist Church, Korean Presbyterian Church, Living Word Korean Baptist Church, Glade Branch Baptist Church, Korean Full Gospel Church and Castor Baptist Church. He was currently serving as the interim pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Leesville. He has also been a substitute teacher in the Vernon Parish School system and worked as a role player for Cubic Defense Applications. He also had radio ministry in Mississippi and Louisiana known as the Chaplains Forum and he was a network marketer for Amway, New Image, Melalueca, TTI, and Avon. His last mission was selling homemade country cane syrup.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Ida Elaine Smith, parents, brothers and grandchild.



Obituary

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He is survived by wife of 15 years, Glenda Fay Smith of Leesville; sons, Danny Smith & wife, Missy of DeRidder and Dennis Smith of Leesville; daughters, Angie Magee & husband Paul of Leesville and Melody Aldredge of Natchitoches; step-sons, James Miller of Lumberton, TX, Timmy Miller & wife Darlene of Bogue Chitto, MS and Wendell Miller & wife, Amanda of Hernando, MS; step-daughters, Glenda “Tiny” Bales & husband, Kevin of Bogue Chitto, MS and Angie Rushing & husband, Buster of Mendenhall, MS; 21 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.



Tribute Wall

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Larry Condra posted:

Chaplain Smith was a central feature of my time at Fort Polk, LA during the mid-80's. I served as a chaplain assistant and the NCOIC of DIVARTY CHAPEL with the 5th Infantry Division. Gerald was definitely one of the "spiritual chaplains," who was down-to-earth, approachable and caring towards those who came in contact with him. RIP "Chaplain Smith." You leave behind you a good legacy and a well-spent life.

June 26 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Glenda, Danny, Dennis, Angie and MeI,We can't think of our Fischbach group without Gerald. It is so hard to believe he is gone - but comforting to know that he has graduated to his forever home. We have been on the road, but have thought of all of you through all this and prayed for you. We treasure our memories of him - and all of you - during our Fischbach days, but more importantly of the times that we have been able to spend together in recent years. He has been a blessing to so many people in so many places. His life has made a difference in the best of ways - in leading people to God and a relationship with Him. May God comfort all of you continually. Love, Mike and Jane Moore

June 2 at 7:00 PM



Elaine Bastedo-Johnston posted:

I am devastated to learn of the death of my beloved friend. When he served as the Installation Chaplain at Fort Polk, I served under him as a Sunday School teacher. I loved him coming into the classroom, and let the children know how special they are in God's kingdom. Although he knew that I was in college in the 70's, studying Biblical history, he took me under his wing and all his staff. He was a great mentor to me, and to many civilians and soldiers in the community, and the Dept of the Army. He firmly believed that the Lord came to serve and not be served; and, he was a true example of serving. It is my delight to know how precious he was to us all! God bless you and yours for your great loss. Elaine Bastedo-Johnston

May 28 at 7:00 PM



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RM

Rev. James Miller posted:

Dear Glenda Smith and all the family of Bro. Gerald Smith: WE enjoyed very much our friendship and fellowship with Bro. Gerald & Glenda while pastor of the wonderful people of Simpson Baptist Church. He was a real encourager to us as well as the whole church. May our Lord bless you and comfort you Glenda & Family. Bro. James & Shirley Miller (First Baptist of Spearsville)

May 26 at 7:00 PM

GB

Greg And Sharon Brillhart posted:

Chaplain Smith ministered to us while were stationed at Fischbach, Germany with the US Army in 1975-1976. We grew to love and admire him and it has been a privilege to call him "friend" all these years. We will miss you Chaplain.

May 26 at 7:00 PM

RL

Randy Lee posted:

We've never quite gotten used to calling him anything, but "Chaplain." It's not just a position, but a respectful endearment. In all his humanness, we could not help but respect him--and love him. Not only did he care for us from his heart, but all of the chapel family, and each person and family in the battalion. He had a huge heart for people, up until his death. People recognized his humility and honesty. They sought his counsel and listening ear. He had a rascally sense of humor, that was not inappropriate. We will greatly miss him, until we see him, again, at the big reunion of believers. This was a man of God. With heartfelt condolences, Randy and Cheryl Lee

May 26 at 7:00 PM

MM

Michael Mcintosh posted:

So sorry to hear about Bro. Smith. He was a fine minister. His life was a picture of what the Lord intends for us to be in the area of service. "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithfull".

May 26 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Dear Smith Family Our thoughts and prayers are with you in the loss of Brother Smith. He was our Pastor when we first moved to Simpson. He touched the lives of many people while he lived there. We lived in the house across the highway from Simpson Baptist Church. May God Bless and Comfort you in this time of sorrow. Frank and Flora Hover Ruston, Louisiana

May 25 at 7:00 PM



Terri Wessling posted:

Dear Smith Family, we are so sorry for the loss of your dear husband, father, and grandfather. We, at St. Andrew, will miss his caring, compassion, and humor. We were blessed to have Rev. Smith and Glenda as our "A" Team. He will be sorely missed. God Bless you all. Members of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.

May 25 at 7:00 PM



Betty & Dennis Farmer posted:

Gerald will truly be missed, he has touched so many lives. Our prayers and thoughts are with all his friends and family.

May 25 at 7:00 PM



Lin Sobie posted:

Our hearts are so saddened to know that in this life, we will not spend time with our dear Chaplain from our time in Fischbach. But because of his ministry to us in Germany, our lives have been changed and we now know Christ, so we are assured of a wonderful reunion in Heaven. Our prayers are with all of his family. May the Lord extend His grace to each of you. In Christ, Mick and Lin Sobie

May 25 at 7:00 PM



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Janie Williams posted:

Angie, I am saddened to learn of the passing of your father. I read the obituary and it seems he had an opportunity to touch the lives of so many servicemen and women at the many posts he was stationed. I remember you and our many conversations at Preventive Med when we both worked there. I wish you well, and, most of all, I wish you peace, love and many wonderful memories. Sincerely, Janie Stailey Williams, RN Former Case Manager, now retired

May 24 at 7:00 PM



Mary Jane James posted:

Danny, Dennis, Angie, and Melody, I'm so sorry for your loss. I know how hard it is to lose your Dad. It is one of the worst things that can happen in your life. I remember so many good times that we all had together at Granny and Papa Wallace's. I love you all very much. Just know I am thinking about you.

May 24 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Chaplain by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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