



## Herbert Smith

July 1, 2011

Memorial services for Herbert Dwight Smith will be 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 6, 2011, at the Alva First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Judye Pistole officiating. Herb was cremated at his request.

Herbert Dwight Smith was born on the Smith farm East of Alva, in the area known as "Little Potsdam?". His parents, Raymond Robert Smith and Esther Margaret Coulter Smith welcomed their second son on February 10, 1926. He became a member of the Alva Presbyterian Church at an early age. Herb helped with the farming, which included working with a garden, orchard and dairy, plus assisting with wheat harvest in Oklahoma and Texas.

He graduated from Alva High School and was a member of the National Honor Society in 1943 and attended Northwestern briefly, before joining the U.S. Army.

The Army provided some education at Baylor University, but eventually he was sent overseas to Germany. He was captured in the Black Forest by the Germans and confined to Stalag No. IV-B for 108 days. He was liberated by the Russians and returned home.

After being sent to Fitzsimmons Hospital, he returned to his home and enrolled at the University of Oklahoma. He served on the Student Senate and obtained his Chemical Engineering degree in 1950. That same year he was made homeless by the Bachelor Officer's Quarters fire. He then returned to Alva and assisted his father with farming, eventually forming his own harvesting operation traveling to various states, but home always looked the

best.

In 1954, he was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket and served one term serving on the Enrolling and Engrossing Bills Committee as Co-Chair.

Herb became interested in law and enrolled at O.U. in the School of Law in the Fall of 1955. He was engaged to Gerree Coley and they were married in the First Methodist Church in Hollis, Oklahoma on November 24, 1955, Thanksgiving Day.

Herb passed the Oklahoma Bar and set up his law practice in July 1958 with Gerree serving as his first legal secretary. He was a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

He has served as Acting County Attorney, Acting County Judge and Alva City Attorney. He served as deacon and elder for the Presbyterian Church and served as Building Chairman for the new Presbyterian Church dedicated May 4, 1965.

He has served as Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge, Rainbow Dad for the Rainbow Girls and Advisor for the DeMolays. He is Past Commander of the American Legion, a past member of the Alva Planning Commission and a past president of the Alva School Board and a member of Elks and Kiwanis. He received the Best Actor Award in 1974 for his role as Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*. There were several return performances as Charles Condomin in *Blithe Spirit*, plus roles in *Teahouse of the August Moon*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *South Pacific* to name a few. He was a quick study and had a "razor sharp" memory.

Most of all after the death of his brother, Dean, in World War II and his return, he felt more responsibility for his parents and still helped with farming, etc. He was "Superman" to his three children: Anita Lynn, Herbert Dean and Lisa Coley. The family never had a set of encyclopedia because he could answer any of their questions. He was always teaching his children and others. He was a wonderful Sunday School teacher for the Men's class and the Couple's class.

When grandchildren arrived he was certain they needed to know about the &declination of the sun&. He had his son, Dean, pull chain for him when he needed to survey a parcel of land.

He also was asked to go with certain local pilots and navigate for them. He had obtained a pilot&s license himself in early years.

He loved his grandchildren, Megan, Bryan and Asia and Bryan&s wife, Linnea and has become very fond of his son-in-law Ed and Ed&s cooking.

Playing bridge and pitch were enjoyable with club members, also the Oklahoman&s crossword puzzles, movies and comic strips helped make things a little more fun and interesting. He loved a challenge. Recently, his niece, Leslie, asked him to write a story about his father for her nephew, Ray, as a Christmas present in 2010. Eventually, he got everything written down and sent to her for Ray&s enjoyment.

Herb and Gerree traveled to London for Theatre Tours offered by Lawton Theatre group. Tourists asked Herb for directions in London.

In 2008, Herb received his 50 year pin from the Oklahoma Bar Association with Woods County Law Wives hosting the reception at County Court House. Judge Dean Linder made the presentation.

Herb is survived by his wife, Gerree Coley Smith, his three children: Anita Lynn Helms, Herbert Dean Smith, Lisa Coley Perkins, his three grandchildren: Megan Helms, Bryan Allen Helms and Asia Gabrielle Perkins.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation for Parkinsons research or the Alva First Presbyterian Church.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Herbert Smith*

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January 30, 2023 at 03:38 AM



“ *Gerree and Family, I always thought of Herb as one of the most honest, trustworthy and truly Christian persons I have ever known. He was of great character and great intelligence. I am so blessed to have known him and his wonderful father while growing up in Alva. My prayers and thoughts are with you at this time.*

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**Nancy Roepke Gwaltney** - July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *May God grant you peace and comfort during this difficult task of saying goodbye to a great man. I have known Herb since I will born. He was a great man who would do anything for a friend in need. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Kim Oakes-Wildeman** - July 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kathe and I are very, very sorry for your loss. We are fully convinced that the soul is indestructible, and that its activity will continue through eternity. It is like the sun, which, to our eyes, seems to set in night; but it has in reality only gone to diffuse its light elsewhere.*

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**Jack & Kathe Hall** - July 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Gerree and family our prayers and thoughts are with you and your wonderful family. They are blessed to have the many wonderful memories of such a wonderful man.  
May all the memories comfort you as you are saddened by the loss of your loved one. He was truly "one of a kind"

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**Bill and Linda Beeler** - July 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IE

“ Dear Gerree & family, We have all lost a real treasure. Herb&s dry wit and extreme caring was always a day brightener. I guess Jesus got tired of sharing that with us. We&ll see it again later, I&m sure. Herb&s at peace. May God&s peace be with us all as we cope with the loss.

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**Ida Evans** - July 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Gerree and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. Uncle Herb will always hold a special place in our hearts.  
Love, Laura and Leslie

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**Laura Smith and Leslie Fowler** - July 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Geree and everyone..my deepest condolences. I am so saddened for your loss. Herb was one of a few very good men. You are in my thoughts and prayers. He was a strong man that left most of us with an example to live by.

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**Dennis Sindrey** - July 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Geree and Family, We are just so sorry to hear about Herb. Please accept our condolences. We are thinking about all of you.

Marilynn Olson - July 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Lisa & Family, So sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I know you will miss him. Sending prayers of comfort for you at this time. Take care.

Dana Hardiman-Jobe - July 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Gerree and family...When I began working in the County Assessor&s office in the early 60&s, I didn&t know how to take Herb&s "dry wit". Needless to say, I learned to really like Herb, and I remember, many times, hearing Jim Nusser say "Herb Smith is the smartest man I know"; I certainly agreed. Please know you&re in our thoughts and prayers. May fond memories help to comfort each of you in days to come.

Dale & Vaughna Schmidt - July 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM