



Ward L. Smith

JUL 28, 1922 - MAR 19, 2016



Scan to Visit



Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
-----------------------	--------



Ward L. Smith

JUL 28, 1922 - MAR 19, 2016

Ward L. Smith
A Life Well-Lived : In Memoriam

Ward L. Smith, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away

peacefully on March 19, 2016 at home in Hudson, FL, surrounded by his family. He was 93. A

year has passed and he will continue to be in our hearts and prayers, and missed very much.

Ward was born on the family farm in Millington, MI to Harold Paul and Mary Elizabeth (Ward) Smith on July 28, 1922, the first of three children. As a youth, guided by his hard-working, loving parents, he developed a strong work ethic, sense of humor, and sound character that served him well his entire life. He enjoyed music, the great music of the era, and it was at a dance that he met the love of his life, Marjorie Marie Scrimger. They married in Malden, Massachusetts on April 1, 1945, while Ward served in the U.S. Coast Guard during WWII. Ward's duties included patrolling the East coast on horseback and watching for submarines. He also served overseas aboard a landing craft, LST-17, transporting British marines along the English Channel to the Normandy Invasion, then carrying the wounded from the beach back on board.

Ward was grateful to return home safely from the war after all he experienced as a young man. He worked for Burroughs Corporation and at J.L. Hudson Company. He was ambitious and a hard worker. He went on to have a successful career in business at his State Farm Insurance Agency in Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge, MI, until his retirement. He was respected and well-liked by his clients and friends and truly loved helping people. "Do you follow me?" was his favorite phrase when explaining things to clients, family and friends.

Ward and Marjorie were blessed with four children during their wonderful marriage and also welcomed ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Ward was devoted to his family. He



Obituary

Ward L. Smith

JUL 28, 1922 - MAR 19, 2016

is missed by Marjorie, his loving wife of 71 years; his four children: Barbara Jo Martini, Susanne Marie (Pete) Petersen, Richard Alan Smith, and Cynthia Lynn Smith Komorowski; his grandchildren: Michael (Stephanie) Crumley, Nicholas and Christopher Martini, Kelly (Eric) Reid and Joseph Petersen, Scott and Mary Smith, and Jennifer, Matthew, and Zachary Komorowski; and great-grandchildren: Dillon and Collin Reid, and Callie Crumley. Two of his grandsons, Joseph and Matthew, are named after their grandfather, given Ward as their middle name. He is also survived by his sister Elaine Joynson, and several other extended family members. He was predeceased by his parents and brother Wayne.

At the age of forty, Ward lost his right leg below the knee as a result of a car accident, but it never held him back from doing the things he loved, including golfing and swimming. He handled the challenge with great integrity, courage and resilience — often encouraging other amputees. Even after the accident, it was common for Ward to play multiple rounds of golf in one day. He shot 4 holes-in-one during his career and enjoyed teaching his family the game. Anything he participated in was with the credo, do your best. His equipment was always kept in good condition, his shoes polished, his crossword puzzle pencils sharp, his desktop tidy, and his checkbook balanced. He was competitive in a good-natured way, whether playing golf, gin rummy, bowling, or rooting for his favorite teams. Ward loved the game of hockey. He and Marge had Red Wing season tickets at the Olympia in Detroit. Upon retirement to Florida he became a Tampa Bay Lightning fan as well. He enjoyed family trips to watch baseball at Tiger Stadium and local PGA events. He even landed a TV interview while heading into Comerica Park, the new stadium in Detroit, by asking the newsman at the gate, “Would you like to talk to someone who saw Ty Cobb play?” His sense of humor was great fun and the smile and laugh after each witty zinger was the best. The sound of George Kell, Ernie Harwell, Budd Lynch and Bob Ufer broadcasting over the airwaves at home in Michigan were common sounds of daily life.

Ward’s favorite way to spend a Saturday was watching the University of Michigan’s football team at the Big House. There was no greater fan than Ward, and he started a tradition when he went to games with his father, and continued with Marge as season ticket holders. He arrived early to watch warm-ups, and stayed for the last play — snow, rain or shine. The Big House and the Maize and Blue have always been special to Ward and his family. He looked forward to each season and was in the stands with his headset on, coaching and rooting for the Wolverines from his seat in Section 4. His youngest daughter is forever grateful that he encouraged and supported her education at U of M.



Obituary

Ward L. Smith

JUL 28, 1922 - MAR 19, 2016

Ward and Marge worked hard and also made time for family fun. As a young couple with a growing family they had a trailer at Burroughs Farms and then a cottage at Cat Lake. Ward built several homes with Marge over the years, and a favorite place was their home on Higgins Lake in Michigan. The family spent time swimming and boating as well as watching holiday fireworks on the boat, then getting lost trying to find their way back to the dock afterward. Visiting Grandma and Grandpa at their homes in Florida was always exciting and favorite trips of the grandchildren. Being with his wife and family enjoying the simple things were no doubt Ward's favorite times in life, like picking apples, going for ice cream, heading to the Old Mill for a perch dinner, or having one of the children ride to the bank with him in the evening after work. He enjoyed animals and family pets over the years included dogs and a canary. He and Marge provided the family with years of special times, cherished memories and lots of love.

Ward was a Mason and Shriner for several years, volunteering at events including the Shrine Circus. He never gave up the secret handshake details despite attempts by at least one of the children to find out. He also coached youth hockey when his son played. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge, whether it be coaching hockey, or helping others with their golf game. He attended the First United Methodist Church in Royal Oak and was a humble man with a big heart. He loved to take the drive back and forth between Michigan and Florida, often several times a year. He and Marge were known to drive straight through many times. Ward had a notorious sweet tooth that led him to countless ice cream sundaes, donuts and cookies with a glass of milk. He loved Marge's cooking and was always happy to prep the flour mixture for the gravy and help clean up with a dish towel over his shoulder. As Marge would tell him, "You may have retired, but I haven't." When Ward stopped golfing, a perfect Sunday included watching sports, a game of solitaire, a nap and a simple dinner of meat, potatoes and bread. And dessert, of course. A private memorial service was held in Ward's honor back home in Michigan on August 6, 2016 at White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery in Troy. The prayer service was conducted by the Reverend Jeff Nelson of the First United Methodist Church in Royal Oak, MI, and included military honors presented by a U.S. Coast Guard honor guard followed by a Christian interment of his cremains. It was a beautiful service, with reflections and memories of Ward shared by his family and Reverend Nelson. Marge and the entire family are forever thankful to God for Ward's life and for blessing them with such a good man.

The Smith family once again would like to thank the medical professionals who helped care for Ward, and the support of the hospice nurses during his last few days at home. Thank you to the staffs of Grace Memorial in Hudson, FL and White Chapel in Troy, MI for their guidance and kindness. Ward's family will always be grateful for the prayers and support of many special friends, family members, Reverend Nelson and the love and presence of the Scrimger family.



Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit

