



Benny Ronald Smith

December 5, 1949 - January 24, 2021

Benny Ronald Smith age 71 of Pounding Mill, Virginia passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2012 at the Clinch Valley Hospital in Richlands following an extended illness.

Benny was born December 5, 1949 in the Jeffersonville area of Tazewell County. He was the son the late Cecil Paul Smith and Lena Margaret Childress Smith. Benny left high school one day, walked straight to the recruiter's office and joined the United State Army to serve in Vietnam. After the war, he went straight underground into the coal mines and worked for several years before retiring from Consol Energy. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, gun collector ad love to target shoot. Benny's favorite place was the beach, he loved to go as often as he could, bury his toes in the sand and enjoy the sounds of the ocean. He was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and friend. He was a proud member of the Disabled Veterans.

Those that remain to carry on his spirit are his:

Loving wife of 50 years, Betty Carol Beavers Smith of Pounding Mill, VA

Daughter, Amy Smith of Tazewell, County

Sisters, Linda Pruitt and Margaret Adams both of Romulus, Michigan

Brothers:

Darrell Smith of Columbia, SC

Randy Smith of Pounding Mill, VA

Craig Smith and wife, Tammy of Belfast, VA

Grandkids, Noah Moore, Colt Osborne, London Osborne, Livie Osborne, Mia McReynolds and Annistyn McReynolds also survive along with several nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral service for Benny R. Smith will be conducted at 2:00pm on Friday, January 29,

2021 at the Hurst-Scott Funeral Chapel in Richlands with the Rev. Kenny Fields officiating. Interment will follow at the Greenhills Memory Gardens in Claypool Hill, Virginia. Pallbearers will be, Jason Moore, Josh Osborne, Randy Smith, Craig Smith, Aaron McReynolds and Richard Pate. The family will begin receiving friends at 6:00 pm on Thursday evening at the funeral home. Due to Covid-19 restrictions only ten people at a time will be allowed in the chapel and face masks must always be worn . Military graveside rites will be conducted the Casey-Shortt VFW Post# 9640.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, Virginia is in charge of local arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery

Greenhills Memory Gardens

11800 Gov G.C. Peery Hwy

Cedar Bluff, VA, 24609

Events

JAN **Visitation** 06:00PM - 09:00PM

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Hurst-Scott Funeral Home

1401 2nd Street, Richlands, VA, US, 24641

JAN **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

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Hurst-Scott Funeral Home

1401 2nd Street, Richlands, VA, US, 24641

Comments



“ Betty and Amy, Steve and I are so sorry for your loss. God chose the Ultimate Healing. We will always remember all the beach trips. Love and Prayers from The Steve Joyce Family.

Steve and Pat Joyce - January 29, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ Peggy Martin Sparks sent a virtual gift in memory of Benny Ronald Smith



Peggy Martin Sparks - January 29, 2021 at 11:19 AM



“ Beth Hill lit a candle in memory of Benny Ronald Smith



Beth Hill - January 28, 2021 at 06:21 PM



“ He will be greatly missed. Love him I will definitely miss him I remember when I was little saying with him
Love you Benny
Delena

Delena Pate - January 28, 2021 at 06:05 PM



“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Praying for you and your family.



Carolyn Coleman - January 27, 2021 at 08:22 PM



“ Betty we are heart broken to hear about Benny, we know you are also! Our thoughts are with you and Amy! If there is anything we can do please let us know!
We love you, Dottie & Mike



Mike & Dottie Wingo - January 27, 2021 at 08:08 PM



“ So sorry for the loss. Prayers for the family



jymbeau davis - January 27, 2021 at 12:54 PM



“ Benny Smith was a kind and gentle person. He was my 1st cousin, one time removed. (My Dad's 1st cousin)

He was 11 years older than me and I remember when he came back from Viet-Nam, we were all in awe of him. He was handsome and well-built. I remember all of us boys marveled at how big his muscles were. He was like Chuck Norris to us. He was something of a legend and we all respected and admired him. He had a copper colored Plymouth Roadrunner with a Hurst shifter. I remember once he took me in a ride up to "The Jumps", he scared me completely to death. We were going airborne a few times. He was absolutely fearless.

Benny was a door-gunner and crew-chief in a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter and flew many missions over enemy territory. He told stories to us as about the war and gave detailed accounts of some of his harrowing experiences. That he re-enlisted for a 2nd tour, was ample evidence of his fearlessness and commitment to his fellow soldiers and his duty.

Benny liked to dance and when he came back from Nam, he had to dance with all the girls who were there. Once we had a big Christmas party at our house in the valley and he and Betty and all the family were there, including his parents. He danced the "Funky Chicken", it was popular in the early 70's.

I used to go visit him and Betty whenever I would come back in; usually in summer and at Christmas. Benny would always smile real big and brighten up when he saw me and he'd be real excited to talk to me. He was always real interested in my stories and he'd always ask me a lot of questions about my family, life, travel, and adventures. Betty always insisted that I eat and fed me well. They treated me like a prince. They hugged me and told me they loved me. I always felt at home.

Once, when I visited Benny, he granted me the favor of an interview about the particulars of his Army service. He spoke about it to me and seemed glad to know that I wanted to listen. He shared some details about the local people and the towns he visited and the food there and also details of the war and specific battles and firefights. His voice failed him a few times here and there and he'd have to pause a minute... but I think he needed to talk about it. It was always clear to me that the war left its mark on his soul and part of him was really always there. He told of several occasions when their chopper received many bullet holes and extensive damage, but they kept flying.

This is a brief summary of what he told me regarding his enlistment:

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He left high school one day and walked directly to the Army recruiter and enlisted. He took his training at Ft Rucker, Alabama. He re-enlisted for a 2nd tour.

Military Service: Ft. Rucker, Army

Two Tours in Viet-Nam Oct 12, 1967- Oct 5, 1970; E5

Based at Binh Wahoa, 117th Warlords, Insertion and Extraction of LRRP

2nd time Phu Loa, 205th and Vinh Long, 175th Outlaws

Crew Chief, Door Gunner, Maintenance

LRRP were the Special Operations Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols (later in 1975 they were renamed the Rangers) These insertion and extraction missions were some of the most dangerous LZs in the war and Benny provided Machine-gun fire to suppress the enemy and cover the LRRP's.

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My heart grieves mostly for his family, but also the personal loss I feel myself. I am truly saddened. I am going to miss him; as I said, Benny was a warm and humble consummate gentleman. He was a man among men. Men like my cousin Benny seem all too few today.

I know he's with his Mom and Dad now.

I want all my dear family to know that I love you each and every one and I pray that you will find peace and receive comfort in your faith that he is in a happy place now where the air is fresh and plenty and the flowers bloom as in springtime and he's walking beside the river that will always flow and he is among his loved ones that have preceded him.

Randy Crouse

Randy Crouse - January 27, 2021 at 12:43 PM



“ Very good, I remember him from when I was little and I remember the road runner he's has always loved all of children, FYI I am Darrell & Dena Smith's daughter. Your words mean a great deal to everyone

Delena - January 28, 2021 at 11:04 PM



“ Benny Smith was one of the kindest, most loving person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Amy and I have been friends for years, but Benny treated me like a daughter. For many Yeats he was the closest thing I had to a dad. Benny , thank you and you will be missed. I love you , Benny, Betty, and Amy.

Letitia Miller - February 09, 2021 at 09:46 AM



“ Randy Crouse lit a candle in memory of Benny Ronald Smith



Randy Crouse - January 27, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ Randy Crouse lit a candle in memory of Benny Ronald Smith



Randy Crouse - January 27, 2021 at 11:55 AM



“ David Beavers lit a candle in memory of Benny Ronald Smith



David Beavers - January 27, 2021 at 06:32 AM



“ Betty I am sorry to hear about Benny ,I still remember your wedding day will be praying for you all

David Beavers - January 27, 2021 at 08:28 AM



“ Betty, you and your precious family are in my thoughts and prayers. I love you sweetheart



Brenda Killen - January 26, 2021 at 09:59 PM



“ TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Benny Ronald Smith



TonyanEdgar Wicks - January 26, 2021 at 07:05 PM



“ Leroy Nelson lit a candle in memory of Benny Ronald Smith



Leroy Nelson - January 26, 2021 at 06:41 PM