



Dr. Donald Howard Smith

November 22, 1936 - January 16, 2025

Dr. Donald Howard Smith, age 88, of Cedar Bluff, Virginia, passed away Thursday, January 16, 2025 in a Richlands, Virginia hospital.

He was born in Glen Allen, West Virginia and was the son of the late Howard Smith and Irene Herald Smith.

Don graduated from Pineville High School, where he excelled on the football field. He joined the United States Air Force and, while serving in the Air Force, played football for the club team. He received several scholarship offers to play college football, including an offer from the University of Illinois. Don felt the need to play football closer to home and so he accepted an offer to play at Concord University, where he met the love of his life, Gloria Jean Wright, they would eventually get married and enjoyed 63 years together. He graduated from Concord with his Bachelor's degree and went on to receive his Master's degree and Doctorate from Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University. He was an administrator for SVCC for over 30 years and served the same capacity for another 13 years with Bluefield State University. Don was an avid outdoorsman and he especially loved to fish. His most important part of his life was spending time with his family. He was a member of the Belfast United Methodist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Jean Catt; and his brother, Marshall Smith. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

Survivors are:

His Loving Wife of 63 years: Gloria Jean Smith

Daughter, Kelly and Son, Rocky

Services will be private.

Hurst Scott Funeral Home in Richlands is in charge of arrangements. Those wishing to express sympathy may do so at www.hurstscottfunerlahomes.com.

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Tom and Dot McGlothlin lit a candle in memory of Donald Smith



Tom and Dot McGlothlin - February 02, 2025 at 08:03 AM

WM

“ With Love, Judy, Donna, and Marlene planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Donald Howard Smith.

With Love, Judy, Donna, and Marlene - January 24, 2025 at 12:16 PM

WM

“ With Love, Judy, Donna, and Marlene purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Dr. Donald Howard Smith.



With Love, Judy, Donna, and Marlene - January 24, 2025 at 12:16 PM

KG

“ To the family, I worked with Dr Smith and remember how dedicated he was to Bluefield State. May all the wonderful memories you shared give you peace and comfort.

Karen Gordon - January 22, 2025 at 04:23 PM

KS

“ *Katrina Saxton lit a candle in memory of Donald Smith*



Katrina Saxton - January 22, 2025 at 06:01 AM

CK

“ *Jean, Rocky and Kelly,
I am so very sorry for your loss of Don. He was such a gentleman and always willing to help others. The world was a better place because of Don. Sending love, hugs and prayers*
Christine Kinser



Christine Kinser - January 21, 2025 at 10:42 AM

DH

“ *Jean praying for you and your family*

David Horton - January 20, 2025 at 08:36 PM

EJ

“ *Don was loved by his Church family, and we were so blessed by being his friends and sharing so much with him and Jean. Don will be missed by all. Earnest & Phyllis Jackson*

Earnes & Phyllis Jackson - January 20, 2025 at 07:50 PM

JR

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Don was such a fine man. Please know that we are thinking of you and praying for you all.



JOHN AND WENDY REEDY - January 19, 2025 at 08:22 PM

AP

“ Jean, so sorry to hear of Don's passing. I remember you both when you first came to Richlands and our days at Raven. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Alice and Jack



Alice Pyott - January 19, 2025 at 04:58 PM

AD

“ This is not the end of a great man but the beginning of a legacy that honors him. We are all better people because he was such a fine man.

*Jean, I miss you so much and will pray for you and your family.
(Anna)*

*Lean on God for your strength and comfort,
Anna and Garry Damron*

Anna Damron - January 19, 2025 at 06:26 AM

JS

“ Sending my most sincere condolences, love, and prayers for comfort for Jean, Rocky, Kelly, family members, and friends. Don was a true gentleman and I have many fond memories of him over the years. Don was always so kind and supportive of me in various educational endeavors. My heart breaks for you. May God wrap you in peace and comfort in the time ahead.

Judy Stamper - January 18, 2025 at 11:15 PM

KS

“ My deepest condolences to the family
Prayers of comfort



Kathy Sneed - January 18, 2025 at 09:15 PM

DK

“ To the smith family words may not explain how sorry I am for Dons passing .A great father and husband and godly man is what you can hang on to in the days and weeks to come

David Kennedy - January 18, 2025 at 08:23 PM

SA

“ Susie Addison lit a candle in memory of Donald Smith



Susie Addison - January 18, 2025 at 03:55 PM

BM

“ Jean and family so sorry for your loss.
May God comfort you all.

Bruce & Linda Mitchell - January 18, 2025 at 12:47 PM

RJ

So sorry Jean for your loss. We have lost a good and wonderful friend.
He will be sorely missed. May God comfort you and family. Please
keep in touch. We love you both.

Ray and Janie Justus - January 18, 2025 at 03:20 PM

TL

“ Toni Lawson lit a candle in memory of Donald
Smith



Toni Lawson - January 18, 2025 at 11:42 AM

CV

“ Charlotte Vencille lit a candle in memory of
Donald Smith



Charlotte Vencille - January 18, 2025 at 11:14 AM

VH

“ Virginia Hart lit a candle in memory of Donald
Smith



Virginia Hart - January 18, 2025 at 10:25 AM

JF

“ worked with Don at SVCC from 1972 until he retired and went to Bluefield, Don was always a student advocate which we agreed on totally. my regards to the family - Jean, Kelly, and Rocky. Don will be missed by many colleagues. community, and church family. He was a good one!!!

jim farris - January 18, 2025 at 09:55 AM

SC

“ Jean, and family, please accept our deepest sympathies. I worked with “Dr. Smith” from 1969-until his retirement. He was a go to person when students needed help with enrollment and scholarships. He was of great assistance as we navigated new frontiers of educational endeavors. The college and Dr. Smith served a large population of students fresh out of high school on - campus and in my job, as we planned off-campus offerings of non-credit classes for the general public. SWCC was the beacon of educational advancement to a long neglected area of Virginia. Because of the leadership of Dr. Don, his staff and colleagues, SWCC became one of the largest non-urban campus in the Virginia Higher Education system. His character and love of the area were essential and responsible for this growth. It was a pleasure to know him and work with him in the educational advancement of our people and for the betterment of Southwest Virginia. Sandra and Ronald Cole,
1307 Pulitzer Lane, Durham NC

Sandy Cole - January 18, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ *TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Donald Smith*



TonyanEdgar Wicks - January 18, 2025 at 08:19 AM



“ *Henry and Brenda Lawson lit a candle in memory of Donald Smith*



Henry and Brenda Lawson - January 17, 2025 at 11:08 PM



“ *Prayers for all the family.*



Carolyn Baldwin Pyles - January 17, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ *Prayers for the Family for Peace and Strength.*

Joyce Leach - January 17, 2025 at 10:19 PM

JW

“ Judy West lit a candle in memory of Donald Smith



Judy West - January 17, 2025 at 08:48 PM

PC

“ A very dear friend in Christ he was always doing doing things for our Church and community .Thanks Don in the name of Jesus Christ

polly cox - January 17, 2025 at 08:05 PM

DM

“ I so loved Doctor Don as I called him. His beautiful wife Jean and he were 2 of my favorites if not my very favorites at SVCC. Mrs. Smith was a joy to have as a professor, and Dr. Don was a wonderful administrator. He was truly interested in helping students any way he could. I had a problem with a student and he and Jim Farris fought for me and with me until the problem was solved. I will always remember that. I will always remember what a lovely, wonderful couple the Smiths were. Rest in peace Doctor Don. Mrs. Smith I love you and I am sending you a virtual hug.💕💕

Dana Altizer Moats - January 17, 2025 at 07:15 PM

ES

“ Ed and Jackie Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald Smith



Ed and Jackie Smith - January 17, 2025 at 05:00 PM