



Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith

February 8, 1944 - December 6, 2023

Robert Ware Smith (Bob), 79, of Albany, Georgia, passed away on December 6, 2023, following a year of declining health.

Bob was born on February 8, 1944, to Chandler William Smith and Cleo Frances Smith, in Fitzgerald, Georgia. He grew up in Donalsonville, Georgia, where both of his parents taught high school. He and his twin sister, Sue, graduated from Donalsonville High School in 1962. Bob continued his education at Middle Georgia College for two years before transferring to the Georgia Institute of Technology where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree in 1967.

After graduation from Georgia Tech, Bob and his beloved wife, Shirley Monk Smith of Bainbridge, Georgia, moved to the Detroit, Michigan area where Bob was employed as an Engineer with Ford Tractor. Upon deciding that the Michigan winters were too cold, Bob and Shirley returned to their home state and lived in Atlanta. In 1969, they, along with their two young daughters, made Albany their home. Bob was employed as an Engineer at Firestone for several years. He then was employed at M&M Mars for 27 years before retiring as an Engineering Manager in 2001. Bob thoroughly enjoyed his work with M&M Mars and traveled the world during this time. He was instrumental in designing the original equipment to produce Combos and also worked on a special project for Forrest Mars, Sr. at Ethel M Chocolates, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Bob dedicated his life to Jesus Christ. As the grandson of a Methodist pastor, Bob grew up in a Methodist church. Bob and Shirley joined First Baptist Church of Albany and were members for over 50 years. Bob served as a Deacon, and both Bob and Shirley were very involved with the Activities Committee and youth programs, hosting weekly Friday night activities. Bob drove the church bus on many trips to Atlanta Braves games, Six Flags, and snow skiing trips to the North Carolina mountains. In addition, Bob drove the church bus on Sunday mornings to bring children in the community to Sunday School. He also participated in Visitation to community members in his lifelong efforts to spread the word of the Lord.

Bob was a member of the Exchange Club of Southwest Georgia. He volunteered annually at the fair and participated in raising funds for charity organizations.

Bob loved spending time outdoors and was happiest hiking in the mountains of Colorado, fishing, hunting, and walking three miles a day on the trails behind the Albany State University West campus. He continued this daily walk through February 2023.

Beyond his professional accomplishments and service to the community, Bob was known for his dedication to and love for his family, humility, quick wit, and genuine interest in the people around him.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his loving wife of 51 years, Shirley Elizabeth Monk Smith. He is survived by: daughters Kim McPherson (Brian) of Leesburg, Georgia, and Paula Norland (Larry) of Cary, North Carolina; grandchildren Bryce Sidders and Clay Phillips of Albany, Georgia, Elizabeth Norland of Estes Park, Colorado, and Caroline and Davis Norland of Cary, North Carolina; his sister, Suzanne Giddings, of North Haven,

Connecticut; and nephews, great-nephews and nieces, and cousins.

A service will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, 10:30AM Walden Chapel at First Methodist Church. A private burial will follow at Oak Cemetery in Bainbridge, Georgia.

Memorial donations in Bob's honor may be made to: The Diabetes Family Connection (thedfc.org), Wilson Hospice, Alzheimer's Outreach Center of South GA (Alzheimersoutreach.org), or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Oak City Cemetery

415 Cemetery St.
Bainbridge, GA 30817

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 10:30 AM (ET)

Walden Chapel at First Methodist Church
307 Flint Ave.
Albany
Albany, GA 31701

Tribute Wall

WN

“ I grew up knowing Bob my entire life seeing him usually when my mom would carry us to Arlington to visit our grandmother Marzene Garrett. Loved him and Shirley. He was a fine man who led a honorable life.

Walter Nielsen - December 10, 2023 at 03:35 PM

JT

“ Kimela and Paula so sorry to hear about your Daddy. I have great memories of your Daddy and Mama and those fun Friday nights at FBC.

Julie Taylor - December 10, 2023 at 01:01 AM

EC

I knew Bob and Shirley for many years. Beginning in Donalsonville Georgia And on to Bainbridge Georgia. Bob and Shirley were good folks. I just learned today about Bob's death. Shirley and my wife were classmates and graduated together from high school. I would see them when I attended my wife's high school reunions. May he rest in peace.

Ed Cannington - February 12, 2024 at 08:19 PM

JL

“ Joan Lashley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith



Joan Lashley - December 09, 2023 at 09:57 PM

JB

“ We have known Bob & Shirley for many, many years! Two of the sweetest and nicest people we have know. I used to eat lunch with Shirley and friends every Wednesday afternoon! My husband Bruce and I exercised at Tony’s gym with Bob. Always a smile on his face. What a wonderful couple! They are missed and may their memories always be a blessing to all.
Love, Janie & Bruce Bitterman



Janie & Bruce Bitterman - December 09, 2023 at 03:32 PM

LO

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Bob. He was the kindest man and loved his family . He and Shirley were both second parents to me . So blessed to have known them both . Rest in peace Mr. Bob . Your work on this earth will never be forgotten. Give Miss Shirley a Diet Coke from me .

Lisa Renee Ogletree - December 09, 2023 at 08:27 AM



“ Elena Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith



Elena Taylor - December 08, 2023 at 06:26 PM

JL

Sending condolences to Bob’s family and friends from his brother-law Tommy Monk who spent many trips to the lake Seminole, the beach and to Diary queen , he will truly be missed the coming days and years to come. Prayers, love and hugs to all that loved him.

Joan Lashley - December 09, 2023 at 09:56 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.*



December 08, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.*



December 08, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.*



December 07, 2023 at 08:32 PM



“ *Craig Webb and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.*

Craig Webb and family - December 07, 2023 at 08:32 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.*



December 07, 2023 at 07:42 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.*



December 07, 2023 at 04:55 PM



“ *He was one the most personal person I ever knew. I knew very well at First Baptist. He sang in the choir and shared time time driving the church bus. He was someone you could always depend on. God has gain back one of his believers. He will be missed. Prayers for the family.*

Smitty Johnson - December 07, 2023 at 03:16 PM



“ *I'm so sorry about Bob. I went to Church with him and Shirley. I will miss his smiling face.*
Shawn

Shawn Lewis - December 07, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.



December 07, 2023 at 02:45 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Bob! He came by to see us at the lake several times! He and Shirley use to come by all the time when we lived in Albany! He was such a great guy and will be missed! Cathy Clifton Goss

cathy clifton Goss - December 07, 2023 at 02:33 PM



“ Mars Wrigley - ALBANY Plant purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.



Mars Wrigley - ALBANY Plant - December 07, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ Mars Wrigley - ALBANY Plant planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ware Smith.

Mars Wrigley - ALBANY Plant - December 07, 2023 at 08:37 AM