



Mr. Leon Smith

March 11, 1940 - September 16, 2017

A memorial service for Leon Smith, 77 of Oxford, will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 2:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Oxford with Pastor Kent Mattox officiating. Visitation will be from 12-2pm at the church on the same day.

Leon was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and a loyal friend to many.

He is survived by his son, Gary Smith (Shelly); grandsons, Jacob, Colton, Tyler (Ciera), and Will, and great grandsons, Walker and CJ.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Delone; sons, Danny, John, and Terry; father, Raymond, and beloved grandmother, Amy.

Pallbearers will be the Oxford Police Department Honor Guard. Honorary pallbearers will be Rick Harris, Bud Burdett, Ken Eaton, Jack Roberts, Stanley Merrill, Susan Martin Hauk, Alton Craft, and Bill Partridge.

Leon was born in Tennessee and moved to Alabama in the mid 1960's with his young family, choosing Oxford as their new home. He worked hard to become a successful businessman and his passions later led to his career in politics. Leon decided to run for Mayor of Oxford in the 1984 election after the death of former Mayor Earl Martin and that is where it all began. He went on to serve eight terms as mayor of Oxford. He effected tremendous change for the City of Oxford. Leon was devoted to the citizens and determined to help as many as possible every day. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Oxford.

Leon was very active not only in his community, but on leagues and councils that would better his treasured city of Oxford and surrounding areas. Leon has served as past commissioner for Oxford Baseball for Youth, past league president and coach of Oxford Football for Youth, and was a past Exultant Ruler for the Elks for 4 consecutive terms and a founding member of the Oxford Quarterback Club. Leon was vice president of Alabama League of Municipalities from 1996-1997 then president from 1997-1998. With Alabama League of Municipalities, he was a certified municipal official emeritus, on the Executive Committee, president of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund Board Legislative Committee, on the Economic Development Council and league committee on fiancé. He also served on the National League of Cities Finance, Administration and Intragovernmental Relations Committee. In 2002, he was on the Board of Directors for the National League of Cities. He also served on the Cerebral Palsy Board of Directors.

Leon also served as Chairman of the East Central Alabama Solid Waste Authority; past chairman, vice chairman and treasurer of the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission and served on many other committees within the Commission. He was on the Technical Review Committee for the Anniston Arm Depot and on the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs committee. He was a member of Jacksonville State University Board of Directors and on the Jacksonville State University Citizens Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Juvenile Coordination Council and a member of the American Association of Retirement Communities.

Leon had a tremendous passion for helping the UCP. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy 415 Castle Ave. Anniston, AL 36205

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **20**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Oxford
95 East Oak St
Oxford, AL 36203

Service

SEP **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Oxford
95 East Oak St
Oxford, AL 36203

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Our love & prayers are with Gary & grandsons & great-grandsons as they adjust to their new normal. May you find comfort in knowing Mr. Leon is with Jesus now!!



Carol Roberts Stewart - September 23, 2017 at 09:29 PM

DW

“ Dan And Diane Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon Smith

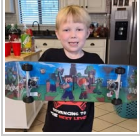


Dan and Diane Wilkerson - September 20, 2017 at 07:39 PM

TT

“ In 1986 thru 1996 I was employed at The Holiday Inn I worked in the London house as a waitress They would hold meeting in the Mayor Room they wouldn't allow me to wait on them one Mayor Smith ask why I never waited on them I explained why he went to the manager over the London House and made it clear he didn't like that from that point on every time they had a meeting I waited on them Thank you Mayor Smith for not seeing color but a young lady who was trying to survive

Terri Turner - September 20, 2017 at 06:30 PM



“ *Claudetta Morgan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon Smith*



Claudetta Morgan - September 20, 2017 at 02:23 PM

DR

“ *Gary, Oh my I'm so sorry to hear this. Finding this out at 2am doesn't give me anytime to make plans to be at Leon service. I hope you know how much Leon meant to me. He was such kind man and always asked me if I was doing ok and if I needed anything. I always felt so much love around him. To me he will always be Uncle Leon. It's sad that as family we don't see each other like we should. Know that I send my love to you and the family. I'm truly sorry Gary.*

Donna Smith Roy - September 20, 2017 at 02:42 AM

DR

Donna S Roy

Donna Smith Roy - September 20, 2017 at 02:44 AM

RF

“ *Ronnie & Shelia Freeman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon Smith*



Ronnie & Shelia Freeman - September 19, 2017 at 02:15 PM

RF

Our thoughts and prayer's are with the family.. Leon was a great man who will be greatly missed...May he rest in the comfort of the Lord he is home now heaven has gained an ANGEL!!

Ronnie & Shelia Freeman - September 19, 2017 at 02:21 PM

SF

“ *SHELIA FREEMAN lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon Smith*



SHELIA FREEMAN - September 19, 2017 at 02:12 PM

RF

Proud to have known him and called him my friend...He was a great man & a GREAT MAYOR!!! Rest now for you are an ANGEL...

Ronnie and Shelia Freeman - September 19, 2017 at 02:27 PM

RE

“ *Richard Edwards lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon Smith*



Richard Edwards - September 18, 2017 at 10:42 PM

RE

Thoughts and prayers are with THE MAYOR'S family at this time. Proud to have known him and to have him as a friend. He will be missed. R I P Mr. Mayor, you deserve a good rest and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, not only to Oxford but the surrounding areas as well.

Richard Edwards - September 18, 2017 at 10:49 PM

JD

“ *John And Angie Durham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon Smith*



John and Angie Durham - September 18, 2017 at 07:57 PM

JD

Leon Smith never turned down a request for anything that he thought was worth while. I am a witness to at least 3 things he did for me when he didn't have to, he thought what I was doing was for a good cause. He was a strong willed man that thought Oxford could and would be a better place with him in position of leader of the city. He didn't always do everything everyone thought was right, but in the end Oxford has certainly grown and become a better city. Thank you Mr. Mayor for all you did to help Oxford. R.I.P.

John and Angie Durham - September 18, 2017 at 08:05 PM

EM

“ well I have known mr Leon smith for mamy,many yrs and it sadden my home to here of his passing Oxford lost a great man and also A great icon he love his city and all the people in oxford and Anniston , he was a great leader for his city and all he wanted in this life was to see the city of oxford to move forward and it did , MR. smith he brought a lot of plants and jobs to oxford , MR smith he work very close with the city, the police Dept, and Fire Dept , and to his Family my thought, and Prayers goes to them thy are the one that is Hurting , MR smith he love life and the people and what thy ment to him , Bro smith you ran the Race kelp the faith to the family he was A wonderful and true Friend and I will miss this Man Deaply I give any thing if I was able to be there and say so long to a great careing icon as he was your work id done and you completed to the End solong my super Friend until we meat again .

Earl E Mills

p o Box 915

Peterstown west Virginia 24963

earl E Mills - September 18, 2017 at 07:15 PM

MR

“ Leon, Was a dear friend and a helping hand when I started out in a business he knew so well. (Fireworks) He was also a family friend my father and Leon was very good friends for a very long time. Our prayers are with the family. Leon's One Stop and Matt & Leon Robinson

Matt Robinson - September 18, 2017 at 05:40 PM

RH

“ Mayor Smith was like a 2nd Dad to me. I remember playing on his 7th and 8th grade football team at Oxford and us going undefeated. (Was it 73? So long ago) My first year to play organized football and he sized me up our first football practice. I started 1st string that year and we had a great season. Of all things he taught me was to be a winner and the value of loyal friendship. This was but the beginning of our friendship that would last through the years - in spite of me spending many years overseas working with the Army. He saved me from more than one tight spot when I was younger. Oxford has had many very good mayors. He was not only the best mayor but HE put Oxford (on the map).... Rest Easy Mayor - you have earned it. Godspeed Sir. ~ RH

Randy Heflin - September 18, 2017 at 04:07 PM