



Terry Lee Smith

January 11, 2024

Terry Lee Smith, 62, of Oxford, Alabama, unexpectedly passed away at Stringfellow Hospital on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Terry was born in Richmond, Indiana on January 12, 1961 to Earl Lee and Jean Ellen Smith, and with his twin sister, Teresa. Terry attended school in Richmond until his family relocated to Oxford, Alabama where he graduated from Oxford High School. He went to work at Wallace Metal Products in Anniston and later worked for his father at SLS in Rockmart, Georgia. Ultimately, he became self-employed and established Terry Smith Racing. Racing was Terry's life and he was a very successful driver winning multiple track championships at the Talladega Short Track. He became known as a tough competitor, but a very friendly, good-hearted person who was always willing to help others. He not only worked on and built his own car but did work for many other racers in the area.

Terry was preceded in death by his younger brother, Tom Smith. He is survived by his parents Earl Smith and Jean Smith, his daughter Lauren Wills, his siblings Teresa (Randall) Thrasher, Tammy (Donnie) Borrelli, Tim (Gloria) Smith, his girlfriend Paige Mangham, many nieces and nephews and a host of extended family and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held for Terry at 1:00 PM on Saturday, February

3rd, at the Talladega Short Track Pit Area, in Eastaboga, Alabama.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 3. 1:00 PM.

Talladega Short Track Pit Area
Eastaboga , AL

Tribute Wall

JW

“ Had the pleasure and honor of working on Terry and Earl Smith's race team for 7+ years, and have to say they were the best years of my life. Terry and I became best friends, won a championship, dozens of races, went to half a dozen states, and, put in countless miles on the road. Some of my best memories were coming back from a racetrack in the wee hours of the morning, everyone else in the hauler asleep, and Terry and I talking all the way home in late 1999, I lost my leg to blood clots and actually died four times. Terry was right there in ICU, and when they didn't think I would make it, he was the first to be my pallbearer. I was in the hospital almost two months and you could count the number of days he missed coming to see me on one hand. When I got out of the hospital, he came to take me to the race shop at least twice a week, having to literally pick me up to put me in the truck. I can honestly say, even though we hadn't seen each other as much as we should, he will always be the best friend and brother to me. I still can't believe he's gone. Love you and see you again. Hope Heaven has a race car for us

John Wilkerson - January 31, 2024 at 09:30 AM

KA

“ Uncle Terry was the life of the party. He wore a smile no matter what was going on. Terry always had time to for Sandra Gail and I. He showed how much he loved his family every time we got to see him. Lots of big hugs! We will miss him very much! We can only imagine the tracks he's getting to race in heaven!

Kristin Arrington - January 28, 2024 at 10:45 PM

AR

“ My brother and I grew up watching Terry race! He was my dad's best friend for years and absolutely the sweetest person! He will be missed dearly! Many prayers for his family and friends!

Amanda Roberts - January 24, 2024 at 11:12 PM

JC

“ Terry was one of my best friends. I have so much love for Terry and the entire Smith family! RIP Terry Smith you will be missed!

Jane Chambers - January 22, 2024 at 11:44 AM

SJ

“ We r so sorry of Terry's death. Our prayers r will the family..Slick and Martha Jones

Slick Jones - January 21, 2024 at 09:01 PM

JR

“ As a teacher at Oxford High School in Oxford, AL, I taught Terry, his sister Teresa, & their brother Tom. I loved them all! I recently saw Terry & was able to thank him again for coming to my house & changing the spark plugs for my '78 Chevy Spyder out in my garage. It was a difficult job, but he did it ! He was a precious young man & I was so sad to learn of his passing. Gladly, I know where he is now! Love, comfort, & prayers for his family.
June Land Reaves



June Land Reaves - January 21, 2024 at 04:33 PM

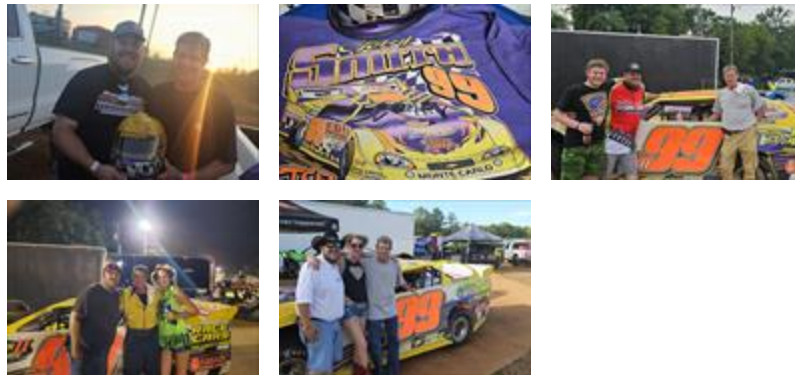
BF

“ It’s not going to be the same going to Talladega Short Track and not seeing Terrys smiling face!

Brittany Smith Finley - January 21, 2024 at 07:33 AM

JL

“ Julianne and I meet Terry 2 years ago when Julianne become the 50/50 raffle girl and got to see him every Saturday or any race’s seeing him in the pits also to get some really good grape soda is what I will call it. He would never but raffle tickets but Saturday night at the Ice Bowl he finally bought tickets from Julianne he bought 10.00 dollars worth which gave him 20 tickets he told me to hold on to them and tell me by text if I win. I said you got it Terry. After number was called I text him saying he did not have the winning number he said well dang that sucks I said sorry Terry at least you tried. When I found out the horrible news about Terry I remembered I still have his tickets and they are sitting right next to his helmet.



Jeremiah Lash - January 20, 2024 at 11:53 PM

JB

So sorry to hear of Terrys passing. My memories of Terry was always his big smile. Always funny and very sweet. My condolences to his whole family. Jody Firth Brown

Jody Brown - January 22, 2024 at 07:51 PM

AB

“ Terry was more than a friend, he was family! He always made sure to visit my family at any race we were all at together! This man was an incredible person, racer, and mentor! We will surely miss you dearly! God SPEED Terry! I'm sure mom has greeted you at the gates of Heaven!

Ariel Bailey - January 20, 2024 at 11:45 PM

DT

“ I met Terry through working in the casket industry. I knew his dad and watched them both race. My son and I stopped by his shop after delivering buses to Phelam,AL. Terry was a great guy and will be missed by many. RIH racer.

Dave Thompson - January 20, 2024 at 09:41 PM

RC

“ Terry was my best friend and more like a brother to me. We had been friends for over 40 years. I will miss him dearly. -Randy Chambers

Randy Chambers - January 20, 2024 at 08:56 PM

DM

“ My fondest memory of Terry, he was always smiling and had something good to say about everything.
One thing that stands out about Terry was when he was 16 or 17 years old, he got a Camaro.
He put one of his dad's dirt track car engines into the Camaro. He brought it up to Ron's Amaco, where we all worked, to get the Amoco white gas and to show us the engine and how it ran.
When leaving, Terry pulled out onto highway 78 and lit it up! WOW!
WHAT A SHOW.

Donnie Minton - January 20, 2024 at 08:56 PM

PM

“ *I always love to go with Donnie and Tammy, and my Donnie to watch Terry and his dad race every Saturday night! Always made our weekends special!* ”

penny minton - January 20, 2024 at 08:37 PM