



James F Smoak

January 11, 1941 - February 10, 2019

Ridgeway

James Fletcher Smoak Sr., 78, of Ridgeway, passed away Sunday, February 10, 2019. Born January 11, 1941, in Summerville, SC, he was the son of late John Fairey and Irene Wynns Smoak. He grew up in Branchville, SC and graduated from Branchville High School. After attending Clemson, he joined the US Navy, where he served as a photographer on an aircraft carrier. His later work life centered on building and construction, superintending many large job sites.

Mr. Smoak was a Mason and a Shriner. In addition, he was a member of the Christian Motorcycle Association, South Carolina Earth Antiquities Society, a Major in the South Carolina State Guard, and a reserve Officer on the Orangeburg County Sherriff Department for a number of years. Although a very active hunter when living in Orangeburg County, he later welcomed wild birds, deer and other wildlife in his yard in Ridgeway. His interest in photograph continued as a hobby throughout his life.

Mr. Smoak was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Linda Smoak Williams. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn B. Smoak, sons James Fletcher Smoak Jr. (Grace) of Walhalla, SC: and John Robert Smoak of Columbia; and daughter Tara Smoak Turner (Chris) of Millersville, TN, and grandchildren Jonathan Smoak, Cooper Turner and Presley Turner.

The funeral service will be held at Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 1920 Cedar Creek Rd., Blythewood, at 11am Wednesday, February 13. The family will

receive friends an hour before the service in the church. Burial will be at Thompson Cemetery in Branchville at 2:30pm.

In lieu of Flowers, the family suggests memorials to Unto Me, Inc., Christian ministry in Nicaragua for feeding and teaching the Gospel to needy children (Unto Me, International, P.O. Box 972, Blythewood, SC,29016); or to Cedar Creek Baptist Church Building Fund (Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 1920 Cedar Creek Road, Blythewood, SC 29016). Ott Funeral Home of Branchville, SC, is assisting the family. Online Condolences can be made to www.ottfh.com

Tribute Wall

RL

“ To Carolyn, and family

I was shocked when I discovered that Jim has passed away. The past few years Jim and I weren't able to keep in touch with one another due to both of us having serious illness's.

I have so many memories of Jim, how even though the last time I saw Jim I was about 72 he still called me "Kid". That was what he named me from the day I met him, when I was 14.

So many fond memories, so many story's, so much history. I remember how much my Mother loved Jim. How he could get her, with just that smile of his, to do anything. That way with my mother that Jim had kept me out of so much trouble. Jim taught me so much, and I loved him like the big brother I never had. I guess we all have regrets, and one of mine is how little I did to keep our relationship close.

I can even now hear that wonderful deep and all consuming laugh of his. Jim could light up every place he went.

I remember his 56 Chevy, he was so proud of that car, I recall going hunting for wild hogs down in Branchville, (and how I messed up and shot a farmers huge boar hog) We laughed about that, well we laughed after we got the thing buried anyway.

Jim I miss you, I still drink coffee out of the Marine Corp coffee cup you and Carolyn gave me the last time I saw you.

Carolyn, you and Jim were such a good pair, and I know he loved you dearly.

Please know that I am here for you. Know that I loved Jim very much. I wasn't as good a friend as I should have been but Jim never held that against me. He just worked harder to make sure I knew he cared for me.

Jim rest easy, the battle's are done, the line has held, and your job is finished.

I know that Heaven is ringing with that wonderful laugh of yours, and it shines a little brighter with your smile's glow

Richard E Luther - March 09, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ My deepest sympathy in the loss of your beloved family member. When a loved one falls asleep in death it grieves the heart. Our loving heavenly father, "the father of tender mercies" and the " God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3,4) want all to look to him for comfort. Psalm 34:18 says; Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; He saves those who are crushed in spirit. Also Psalm 94:19 states; "When anxieties overwhelmed me. You (God) comforted and soothed me". May these scriptures help you cope with the sadness and grief at this time of bereavement. For more comfort please visit our website: www.jw.org and view the video: *Is There Hope for the Dead?* Click publications then videos.

R. Sweatman - February 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ To the Smoak family I send my heartfelt condolences. While the loss of a family man can be sorrowful, we can take comfort in the memories we create with them. Pray for the comfort and support God is ready to give to you. And may you all have peace as you prepare to celebrate Mr. Smoak's life. -Philippians 4:6, 7

AJ - February 12, 2019 at 12:00 AM