



David Smith

July 10, 1927 - August 10, 2022

David Smith passed away on August 10, 2022, at his home in Austin, Texas where he had just recently celebrated his 95th birthday.

He was born on July 10, 1927, to Morris and Sadie Smith in Pittsburgh, PA. He was the oldest of three children followed by his brother Norman (Normie) and his sister Pauline. He grew up during The Great Depression and like many who grew up in those lean times, he learned not to waste material things. As a youngster, he had a knack for fixing broken items like old radios that people would throw in the trash. His beloved bubbe Rivka was one of the first to observe what she dubbed his "golden hands" that had the ability to fix broken things.

David joined the US Navy in 1944 at age 17 where he served on the USS Vogelgesang in the Atlantic. He started out loading ammo into big guns, but he eventually worked his way into the radio shack where he was able to pursue his passion for electronics. The skills he picked up in the navy and later at Carnegie Technical Institute led to a career in electronics at Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, PA, and Cameron Iron Works in Houston, TX. In the 1950's and 1960's he was involved in early pioneering work on Numerically Controlled Machines (CNC) which were basically early computer-operated milling machines that were used to manufacture complex equipment like ball valves for oil pipelines and drill bits for oil exploration.

He retired before the personal computer revolution in the 1980's, but he caught the wave as a hip retiree. He quickly learned how to specify and build his own computers from parts he could order online (when this was a new concept). He used his home-built computers as a volunteer beta tester for MicroSoft Corp where his role was to evaluate and critique their latest software releases. He was an active beta tester into his early 90's. David used his "golden hands" to fix computers and other devices (like cars and cellphones) for family, friends, and the occasional stranger. He was generous with his time and money and was quick with a joke or a come-back quip. His easy smile will be missed.

David is survived by his wife of 55 years, Lynne Smith, who has been by his side through thick and thin. He is also survived by his adult children with his first wife, Audrey Dixon Smith-- Mark Smith, Rachelle Doody, and Eric Smith (and wife Patti) and his grandchildren Rachel Sedita (and husband Frank), Rebecca Smith-Coe (and husband Kevin), Zachary Smith, Clare Krupin (and husband Stephen), Robin Doody, Justin Doody, and Aleah Doody. David was also blessed with two great grandchildren, Stella Sedita and William Krupin.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **14**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals
3742 Far West Blvd #104
(Next to Biderman's Deli)
Austin, TX 78731
(512) 851-1236
office@austinnaturalfunerals.com
<https://www.austinnaturalfunerals.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *David Smith*

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *From David Smith's Son,
Mark A. Smith*

I have so many memories and anecdotes that I could probably write a book. I remember that we had so many Family trips, maybe about seven total to Mexican Border towns, mainly to Nuevo Laredo, which is where he bought the Bunkbed that my brother and I slept on growing up. So many times going to different Flea Markets and looking at different antiques and other things. I am suddenly reminded about how my Dad bought either a Heathkit or Hallicrafters radio, (probably about 50 years ago), for about \$35, which was said to be worth \$110 working, which it was not. He brought the radio 📻 home, and he found out that everything was okay with the radio except for a improperly soldered speaker 🎧 wire, which was probably manufactured that way. He fixed it and he had a good working radio. He taught my Brother Eric electronics and he got a Special Transfer for Eric that allowed him to learn more at the only School that was teaching Electronics in our School District. I even remember two different old Zenith Transoceanic Radios 📻 that were able to pick up signals from Europe. So many other memories of long, long ago.

Mark Smith - September 05, 2022 at 07:34 AM

PS

“ My father-in-law loved all things beef. Prime rib roast stuffed with tons of garlic cloves, coated with olive oil and kosher salt was his absolute favorite. He would travel back to Pittsburgh after a visit with us and place a sandwich made from leftovers in his briefcase to eat either at the airport or on the plane, not caring about the odor anyone near would have to endure. Later when he moved back to Texas, his palate was all about barbeque. Dave loved the smoked brisket in Austin at places like Black's, County Line, and Rudy's; he particularly enjoyed our field trips with Eric in the pilot seat to Spicewood, Driftwood, and Lockhart, nearby cities where he would sample more Hill Country Fare. Ribs, brisket, potato salad, and coleslaw were always on his order. This for a man with no gall bladder!!

Dave also enjoyed egg salad, devouring the stuff. When eating eventually became more difficult, it was something he could still manage and a constant on the menu because he still asked for it.

I loved our Sunday dinners out, Dave, because you were such a foodie, and I loved hosting here for you and Lynne for the same reason. Even when meals became restricted to your apartment, you ate with a boyish enthusiasm, so simple to please.

I'll miss you, Dave, for so many reasons. Sharing the joy of food with you is just one of many.

I love you,
Patti

Patricia Smith - August 15, 2022 at 05:15 PM

“ *Eric's Eulogy for His Dad*

Our family relocated from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Houston, Texas, when I was around 8-yrs-old. The move to Texas really suited my dad. For one thing, he loved Westerns and cowboy lore. He was a big fan of John Wayne and Clint Eastwood and like the characters they played, he was a man of action who needed few words. In many ways he was a Texas Cowboy, trapped in the body of an East Coast Ashkenazi Jew. I just found out the other day from an old work friend of my dad's, that he used to tell people at work that he was from Sweetwater, Texas. Everyone knew he was joking by just looking at him, but I think my dad really liked the idea of coming from a ranch in Sweetwater. Like the legendary cowboys from Texas history, my dad had a sense of quiet determination. You got the impression that he would accomplish whatever he set out to do. And he did do many things, most of them with his hands, his problem-solving brain and that intense determination that some would call stubbornness.

His determination was never more apparent than in the last few years of his life when he struggled to keep going as he faced increasing physical challenges. He amazed everyone around him as he suffered through one devastating setback after another but just kept on living and getting what joy he could out of life until, finally, his body just quit.

In honoring my dad today, I want to do it in his style of less is more. I'd like to simply enumerate some of the things I learned from him.

Things I Learned from My Dad

The Smith shot –A hook shot taken while in motion from around the free-throw line

An appreciation for Science Fiction movies including Star Trek and

Star Wars

The joy of learning something brand new

An appreciation for Chemistry, in particular, for the room temperature properties of the liquid metal, Mercury

The power of self-improvement

The power of positive thinking

The joy of reading. He insisted I read the classics: The Complete Sherlock Holmes, How to Make Friends and Influence People, and many years later Search Inside Yourself

An appreciation for the rewards of hard, physical labor

An appreciation for learning new skills as an apprentice. (In many ways, I was my dad's apprentice.)

An appreciation for well-built tools and having the right tool for the job

A respect for people who earn a living working with their hands

Project management 101: Plan your work, then work your plan

The joy of placing a plant in the ground and nurturing its growth (succulents were his specialty)

The opportunities presented by a good problem

A love for the magic of electronic circuits

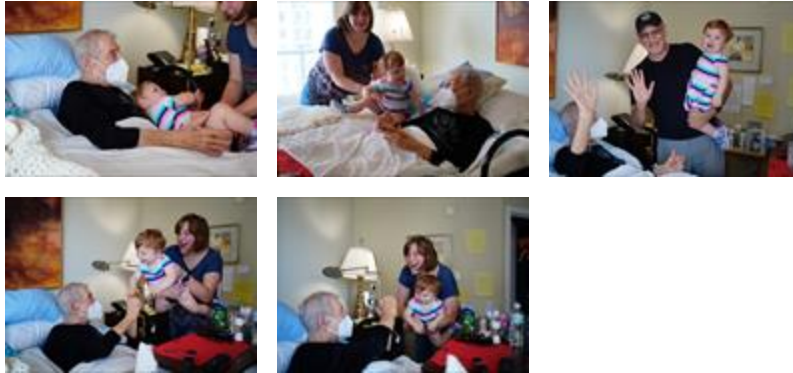
The joy of figuring out what's broken and how to fix it

I will miss sharing my good problems with you dad, but I will keep on problem-solving as best I can without you, and I will be forever grateful for the time we spent together figuring out what was broken and how to fix it.

Eric B Smith - August 15, 2022 at 01:17 PM

ES

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Eric B Smith - August 15, 2022 at 01:08 PM

MS

“ When Jeff first introduced me to Uncle David and Lynne, I immediately felt so accepted. Uncle David looked at me like as if he was waiting for me, waiting for Jeff to meet me. Uncle David's eyes and words confirmed I was some one special without having to prove myself, just like his brother, my father-in-law Norm. He made me feel loved instantly and I felt that same love for them too. Rest In Peace Uncle David. Love Michelle

Michelle Smith - August 15, 2022 at 11:46 AM

JS

“ Uncle David was larger than life to me from the time I remember him until we lost him. I was always ready to hear about what he was working on when we had our lunches in the strip district. Our hour lunches normally stretched to over two hours because we got lost in our conversation.

Here is how much of an influencer he was for me. I joined the steel workers and became a master of CNC machinery and an expert tool maker.

I became a beta tester for Microsoft and also did penetration testing on their products.

I developed a love for Mexican food after he introduced me to a hidden gem of a restaurant. We would order food and then toast with our glasses of water to wash down our Nexium and laugh because neither of us should have been eating spicy food.

It wasn't until after he moved back to Texas that I realized what he was doing for me. He knew what I needed and he gave it to me no matter how he was feeling.

The last thing he said to me was "I love you" while he was lying in bed feeling pretty bad.

He was one of a kind, quirky, brilliant, funny and the most generous person I'll ever know.

Jeffrey Smith - August 15, 2022 at 11:46 AM

ZS

“ Grandpa's technical skillset and kind demeanor were truly unique. Who amongst us can consult their grandparent for computer-related technical difficulties? His ability to learn and apply new skills was very admirable, especially given that he was largely self-taught.

In addition to his problem solving skills, the Smith family always enjoyed his presence for his quick smile and light-hearted jabs. He is a special person and will be very missed.

Zach Smith - August 14, 2022 at 05:54 PM

ES

“ 29 files added to the tribute wall



Eric B Smith - August 14, 2022 at 05:35 PM

BS

“ Grandpa Dave was a very special person to me. He was never too busy to take a call from me to talk about school, life or computer problems. Visits with him in Pittsburgh were sacred, full of fun adventures and sweet treats.

What I will remember the most about Grandpa Dave is his quick sense of humor. He was a kind, caring grandfather who showered his grandchildren in love and Star Trek, but most importantly, he taught me the lesson to never take yourself too seriously, and that nothing cannot be fixed with a good laugh. He will be very missed.

Becca Smith - August 14, 2022 at 12:59 PM

ML

“ I remember Uncle David from when he smoked cigars blew smoke rings & I would put my fingers in them like they were rings.he always had a big smile & huge hug when he saw me.He was a great caretaker to my Grandma.love you
Missy Levy

Missy Levy - August 14, 2022 at 12:35 PM

RS

“ My grandfather was one of a kind. He was the king of dad jokes, and always had a crazy story. His sense of fun and curiosity was something he always shared with his grandkids. He would let us eat popcicles for breakfast (aka frozen fruit) and would show us Star Trek and James Bond movies. All of his grandkids are proud Trekkies thanks to him. He was loved and he will be missed.

Rachel Sedita - August 14, 2022 at 12:10 PM

MM

“ I too got to know Dave at a very early age, I was just a little kid when he married my sister and became my brother-in-law. I really looked up to him; he was smart and handsome with a beautiful smile, and he was a good father to Mark, the serious son, Rachelle ("Shelly" to us - the Dixon side of the family) the beautiful, delicate, sweet little girl, Eric, the adorable little boy with curly blonde hair; and Denise, the adorable little one with dark curly hair - they were such good kids, Dave would pick me up in his jeep and take me to their house in Monroeville to babysit....those were the good old days and I'll always remember Dave and the kids and treasure the memories of the fun we had when they were little. Thank you Dave, for being a good father. I'm sorry that the miles have kept us apart, but I will always have those very special memories. My heart is with you in sympathy and love.

Aunt Cissy (Dixon)

*aka: Marylou MacMillan
Jamison, PA*

Marylou MacMillan - August 13, 2022 at 09:11 PM

DT

“ I’ve known Lynne and David Smith for about 30 years. David was a smart and caring person that always had a big smile on his face and a positive attitude towards life. When I saw him, he could engage me in any conversation ranging from sci-fi to computers to food. We also often talked about how the world was changing as we both grew older. David was ready and willing to help anyone that asked him – whether it involved solving a computer problem or just listening and providing some “fatherly advice.” David loved his wife Lynne very deeply and his children and grandchildren were the light of his life.

May the life of David Smith be remembered through our good memories of him.

Diane V. Thompson

Diane Thompson - August 13, 2022 at 08:00 PM

ES

“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Eric B Smith - August 12, 2022 at 04:20 PM

DD

“ I got to know Dave at a very young age - in my very early teens. At the time, Dave was a Sales Representative for RCA products (as I best recall) and it involved spending hours driving from one customer's location to another all over Western Pennsylvania.. On many occasions Dave would invite me to ride along. These opportunities to just talk with an intelligent and caring adult, someone who I respected and clearly showed an interest in my thoughts and dreams, left impressions that stayed with me ever since -

Difficult circumstances beyond either of our control caused us to lose contact for many years - and in those years I often thought and wondered about how he was fairing and what things might have been had we maintained contact. In the last few years I got my answer. We did wind up reconnecting and it was like that gap never happened, I found myself being that young teenage guy still impressed and grateful for the past and current relationships.

Dave Dixon

Dave Dixon - August 12, 2022 at 02:05 PM