



Mr. George Henry Smith, Jr.

August 12, 1942 - May 13, 2025

George H. Smith Jr. of Salem, SC, passed away on May 13, 2025, at the age of 82. He is survived by his beloved wife, Ann Essertier their son, Steve Smith (Angela); their daughter, Tibby Smith; and two cherished granddaughters, Anna Alexis Smith and Madeline Grace Smith.

George was born in Schenectady, NY on August 12, 1960. His family moved to Ridgewood, NJ when he was a small child and he graduated from Ridgewood High School in 1962. He earned his B.S. in Economics and Business Administration from Central College in Pella, Iowa, and proudly served as a member of the United States Marine Corps.

He was known for his sharp wit, dry humor, and unwavering loyalty to his friends. Many described George as “one of a kind,” and those who knew him well often said that once you were a friend of George, you were a friend for life.

George held fond memories of growing up in Ridgewood, NJ often reflecting on what he called a “wonderful” childhood. Even as his career in sales took him and his family away from Ridgewood for a few years, he was determined to return so that his children could benefit from the town’s close-knit community and excellent schools. His commitment to giving them the Ridgewood experience brought the family back during their junior high and

high school years.

The majority of George's professional career was spent in the bakery equipment industry, where he found great success. During the 1970s and 1980s, as supermarket chains across the country began installing in-store bakeries, the industry boomed—and so did George's business. At its peak, his company held a 90% share of the national market. This eventually led to a monopoly lawsuit—which the company won.

Ironically, it was later acquired by the very entity that had filed the suit. After a series of additional mergers and acquisitions, George went on to start his own company, which he operated until his retirement at the age of 59.

In 1991, once their children had left for college, George and Ann moved to Jacksonville, FL, where they spent 21 happy years. George retired shortly after 9/11, trading the stress of constant travel for the peace of the golf course—a change he welcomed. In 2011, the couple relocated to South Carolina to be closer to their grandchildren and enjoy the beauty of the mountains and lakes. They settled in Keowee Key, a scenic golf course community where they formed lasting friendships and embraced a relaxed, fulfilling lifestyle. Ann continues to reside in Keowee Key.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Keowee Key Club in Salem, SC, on June 21st. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Hospice of the Foothills or the Prisma Health Cancer Institute, both located in Seneca, SC.

Tribute Wall

JC

“ 3 files added to the album George Smith



John Cobb - May 24, 2025 at 09:15 AM

“ GEORGE HENRY SMITH, JR.

Central College Major: Economics & Business Administration

What fills my Hours

Ann and I live in Keowee Key, a lake, golf, tennis community approx. 13 miles from Clemson University. We moved here after 21 years, in Jacksonville Fl., to be closer to my son's family and grandchildren. We golf, boat and have a very active social life, among the 2000 residents who live here. Being close to Clemson affords us access to many activities for entertainment and 2 national football championships in the last 3 years.

Family/Children

We have two children, Steven and Tibby. Steve owns multiple fast food restaurants, Moe's Southwest Grill, and one upscale hamburger place, the BGR within an 80-mile radius of Greenville S.C. where he resides. Daughter Tibby works in the IT field and travels all over the world to implement new client platforms. Two grandchildren Anna and Maddie who are excellent students and play a variety of sports. Anna, this past year as Freshman, was an all upstate S.C honorable mention in lacrosse.

Recent Awards;

Last year I was awarded a Birthday cake for making it to my 76th year of living which nobody, including myself, would have expected. 52 years of marriage, also a great accomplishment. Canfield was the best man, and Fairlamb a member of the wedding party, Cobb missed the wedding he had no shoes.

After Central

5 months after graduation I headed to Parris Island S.C to start serving my 6-year enlistment in the USMC Reserves. The better part of my career was spent in the bakery equipment business. The 70's and 80's became very lucrative for me when supermarket chains started putting in bakeries. At one time we owned 90% of the business nationwide. We were eventually sued over being a monopoly. We won the case but were eventually acquired by the suer. Eventually I owned my own company, after a few more buyouts, and retired in 1991 at the age of 59. Decided no more world travel after 9/11.

Phi Delta Tau Memories The first year in the house was a blast! The 6-man bedroom was unbelievable. I don't think there was one night where we got to sleep before 3:00 A.M. Many laughs! Poor Struikmans, who was the house manager, made many a trip in to get us to quiet down! Too many other great memories to share in this limited space. Will love sharing the many great stories in June 2019 in Pella.

In life we meet a few characters along the way. George was A Character! George was an individual personality. When George walked into a room it just lite up! He made you smile and feel good. He always made fun of himself 😊

The Obituary at the top of this email was written by the Davenport Funeral Home in Walhalla South Carolina because George did not want a detailed Obit. Said he didn't want to waste folks time reading about his life. But He had a Good and Great Live!

George was like Norm on Cheers! Everyone Loved George :)

George will be missed...

John Cobb - May 21, 2025 at 08:32 AM

WB

“ Wayne F. Barton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. George Henry Smith, Jr.



Wayne F. Barton - May 14, 2025 at 10:09 PM

HL

“ Ugh, George and I recently re-connected and talked of the baseball days in Ridgewood and son Steven's championship summer of '85. Warm condolences to Ann, Steven and Tibby.

Howard Liverance - May 14, 2025 at 03:14 PM

FB

“ Frankie Burrell lit a candle in memory of George Smith,



Frankie Burrell - May 14, 2025 at 03:23 AM