



Douglas Harold Smith

February 7, 1935 - February 14, 2022

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Douglas Harold Smith of Cary died peacefully in his sleep on Monday, February 14, after a courageous battle with cancer and Parkinson's Disease. A celebration of Doug's life will be held at 10:45 a.m. on Friday, March 11, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Old Raleigh Road, Apex, NC. Inurnment will follow in the columbarium on church grounds. After the service, the family will host a luncheon in the church social hall.

Doug will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 61 years, Pam Smith; his children: Douglas Smith (Ann) of Colorado, Dana Poole (George) of Tennessee, Dean Smith (Frank Garrett) of Winston-Salem; and Darrin Smith of Cary; his grandchildren: Christie Schwarz (TJ) of Tennessee, Riley Poole of Tennessee, Evan Smith and Daniel Smith of Colorado, Colin Smith (Chloe) of Idaho; his great-grandchildren: Harper and Tripp Schwarz of Tennessee; his former daughter-in-law Joy Dioquino Smith of California; his sister: Sue Tribble of Georgia; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He is predeceased by his parents, Alma Sue and Joseph Harold Smith of Georgia.

Doug was lovingly devoted to God and his family and humbly loyal to his friends.

To know Doug was to love him. His gentle manner got you at the first "hello y'all" he spoke with his sweet, Southern drawl.

Doug grew up in Hapeville, Georgia, among a large, extended family. He

played drums in the marching band at the Hapeville Hornets High School, where he graduated in 1953. Doug earned a B.S. degree in Agriculture from the University of Georgia – a proud “dawg” in the Class of 1957. He was a member of the UGA Marching Band, symphonic orchestra, and a popular jazz group.

Music was one of the many gifts he passed on to his children. His Cary home reverberated with symphonic or jazz music pumping from his prized sound system with its four-foot-tall speakers.

He was a proud Cary Band Booster – toting equipment wherever the band was traveling and cheering the loudest whenever they performed. He happily drove his sons to music lessons from Wake Forest to Winston Salem and coaxed his daughter to consider piano lessons to be fun, not a duty. They, in turn, taught him to broaden his listening to include some pop music in his vast vinyl and CD collection.

Gardening was another passion he shared with family and friends. He was quick to tell you that the magnolia tree he planted in 1971 now towers above the family’s former Wishing Well Village residence. He expertly filled the landscape there with colorful roses, hibiscus, azaleas, daylilies, and many plant varieties that attracted birds to the yard.

The grandchildren called him “Choo-Choo” Grandpa because of his passion for trains – model trains and real trains alike. His scale-model custom painting was sought after by modelers from many states. The fun side of the hobby was “playing trains” with his close circle of fellow enthusiasts who meet weekly. They have shared many great adventures on train excursions across the country.

It's fair to say that nothing delighted Doug more than being with his family. The joy that his children and grandchildren brought into his life is immeasurable. He would sometimes bring up all their accomplishments in the midst of unrelated conversations. No one has grandchildren or great-grandchildren as beautiful and as smart as his! Period!

Doug served in the U.S. Army at B Battery, Rocky Point, NY for seven years;

was a member of the Wilmington Council of the Knights of Columbus; and was a pharmaceutical sales representative for Syntex Laboratories for 26 years.

We are grateful to all our family and friends who have offered prayers and support during Doug's illness. We are thankful for the wonderful care he received from Dr. Joseph and the entire care team at Rex-UNC Oncology Center in Cary, Palliative Care Nurses, and the Volunteer Caregivers of Cary. We can never repay the comfort and support Doug received from Transitions Hospice Care.

We are especially thankful to God for giving us time for his family to be with him in his final days to pray him into heaven.

We are certain that his heavenly experience includes family gatherings, model trains, UGA bulldogs, chocolate ice cream, sweet tea and quiet jazz.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to St. Andrew's Parish Outreach <https://www.st-andrew.com/parish-outreach>;

or, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research <https://www.michaeljfox.org/>

Cemetery Details

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church

3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 11. 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church
3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Tribute Wall

YD

“ Growing up next door, Doug was like a second father to us Coles. He shared his family, his medical samples, his pool, his love of music, and taught me what good beer tasted like long before breweries were popular. He and my Dad can hang out in Heaven together. He will be missed. Much love and prayers for my second family. yvon

Yvon Daniel - February 28, 2022 at 07:46 AM

SE

I am just now seeing this and want to express my condolences to my old dear High School friend Dean on the loss of your father. Our friendship meant a lot to me- thank you for all the talks and laughs we had way back then. I hope the wonderful memories of your dad help you through the times when you are missing him. Take care,
Susie Keeney Edwards
susiefaern@gmail.com

Susie Keeney Edwards - July 09, 2022 at 02:07 AM