



Dr Joe Carlyle Smith

February 6, 1921 - March 2, 2016

Joe Carlyle Smith, M.D.

Born Feb. 6, 1921; Died March 2, 2016

Joe C. Smith, known widely for his large-scale metal sculptures, died at his home in Caldwell last Wednesday near his much-loved wife of 71 years, Mollie. Dr. Smith, 95, was a family physician in Caldwell from the early 1950s to the mid-1980s and devoted his career to improving the level of medical care available in Caldwell.

He was a doctor, a photographer, a painter, a sculptor, a jewelry maker, a philosopher, a world traveler, a father, a son, a grandfather and a friend. He collected jokes and told them over and over. From simple to complex, they always drew a big laugh from his audience. Until recently, he created something every day. Self-expression was a driving force in his life.

He and Mollie married in Arlington, Virginia in 1944 after a long and adventurous train trip for her from Texas. They moved to Caldwell in 1953 with their two daughters, Lynn and Susan, to set up his medical practice. His first office was in downtown Caldwell behind the old Corner Drugstore. His second office was on Highway 21 and is now the Harry P. Woodson Library.

Dr. Smith graduated from Baylor University and Baylor College of Medicine. He completed his residency at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio as a Captain in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He completed an additional year's residency in obstetrics & gynecology at Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio after coming to Caldwell. He was named a Distinguished Alumni of the Baylor

College of Medicine in 2002.

Dr. Smith was the fourth of five sons. Born in 1921 in Memphis, Tennessee to Matt Bunyan Smith and Amie Agnes (Anderson) Smith, he grew up in Nashville where his father was pastor of the Second Baptist Church. For college he set his sights on Baylor University. However, his education was interrupted by World War II. In early 1942, he enlisted in the Marine Corps where he was wounded in the Okinawa campaign. Later, he was sent to China to help repatriate Japanese civilians who had been living in northern China. He received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his combat service. He was discharged as a First Lieutenant in 1946. He resumed his education at Baylor with Mollie and went on to graduate from Baylor College of Medicine.

In Caldwell, Dr. Smith was instrumental in raising money to build Burleson County's first hospital. The current clinic adjacent to Burleson St. Joseph Health Center is named in his honor. During the early years, he and Mollie added two more children to their family, Gayl and Griff. And, the couple followed their beloved Baylor Bears in football and basketball. In later years, they especially loved watching the Baylor Lady Bears basketball team win on TV. They also enjoyed many trips aboard with groups of traveling friends.

Dr. Smith began his creative life as a way to relax when he was the only doctor in Caldwell. First, he learned everything he could about photography, setting up his own darkroom in a hall bathroom to develop and print the photos he shot. He created unique print techniques and may have been the first to use food color to hand color dramatic black and white images. By the early 1960s he had added the painting of large abstracts with acrylic paints. As always, he experimented freely with materials and techniques.

He started painting after he asked an interior decorator how much it would cost to hang some modern art in his new office. The price was way too high so he decided to paint his own. His JLyle signature on his creations was designed to hide identity so he could hear what his patients really thought of

his work. One early critic said of a large yellow and green creation, "That makes me positively bilious." That opinion did not deter him. In the next few years, he added jewelry making, sometimes working in fine gold, silver and precious stones but more often using brass or aluminum to create unique chains and pendants.

After he retired from medicine 30 years ago, he found his greatest artistic love, large scale sculpture. The grounds of his home, dotted with his creations, most fashioned out of cast-off metal, draw many motorists off the highway to tour and discuss his unique sculpture collection. His only formal training in sculpture was at the Glassell School of Art in Houston under Texas sculptor Ben Woitena. His abstract sculptures stand at the Texas A&M Medical School, Texas A&M Horticultural Gardens, Caldwell Community Center and many other sites around Brazos and Burleson Counties. Perhaps his most ambitious piece, called Eternal Winds, a 25-foot white swirl of steel, was commissioned by the Brazos Valley Arts Council to mark the millennium. It stands prominently on Texas Avenue near the Texas A&M campus in College Station.

Dr. Smith, a member of First Baptist Church of Caldwell, is pre-deceased by his parents and brothers Richard, James and Fred Smith. He was buried in the Masonic Cemetery after a graveside ceremony on Friday, March 4.

Pallbearers included Arnold Pearson, Justin Smith, Charles Hoffmeyer, Clint, Goolsby, Trey Asberry, Kirt Chapman and Joe Rychlik.

He is survived by his wife Mollie; his children Lynn Pearson of Waco, Susan Hoffmeyer and husband Charlie of New Ulm, Gayl Newton of San Antonio, and Griff Smith of Caldwell; brother Paul Smith and wife Abbey of Eureka, CA; grandchildren Arnold Pearson and wife Shelley of College Station; Justin Smith of Olympia, WA; Tessa Goolsby and husband Clint of Plano; Sara Asberry and husband Trey of Plano; great-grandchildren Corey and Carly Pearson of Austin; Raven and Gavin Smith of Olympia, WA, and Roxie Goolsby of Plano; brother-in-law Tom Sewell of Blooming Grove and many

nieces and nephews scattered throughout the country.

Memorials may be made to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston or the Burleson St. Joseph Health Center in Caldwell.

Cemetery Details

Caldwell Masonic Cemetery

1411 W. Buck St.
Caldwell, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Caldwell
404 W. Buck St.
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 567-3232
phillipsandluckeyfh@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Graveside Service

MAR 4. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Caldwell Masonic Cemetery
1411 W. Buck St.
Caldwell, TX

Tribute Wall

MR

“ I am very sorry to learn of Dr. Smith's passing. My deepest condolences go out to his family. I never met him but after reading his obituary, he sounds like he was an amazing man. Like many people, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing his fantastic sculptures off of Hwy 21 when I occasionally make the long commute to East Texas. I'll never forget the first time I saw those sculptures during a road trip back in 1996—they were so fantastic and completely unexpected. Each time I've seen them ever since, they always feel like old friends waving "hello" to me as I drive by. It's been a little while since I've passed by that way; I hope Dr. Smith's sculptures are still there and stay there forever. God bless his memory and god bless his loved ones. No doubt he's up in heaven making wonderful new art with the angels. ~Margot

Margot Rochon - April 08, 2019 at 01:39 AM

DR

“ Joe lives in my memory and heart as the most sincere, kind and truthful man I have ever known. He and Mollie blessed my life from the first day I met them. Death can't change that fact. I am the person who commissioned "Eternal Winds," and I am very proud that Joe often told me it was his most challenging work. He exceeded my expectations. I am a better person because of Joe and Mollie.
Dr. David Romei

Dr. David Romei - October 17, 2017 at 12:28 AM

MC

“ I was one of those motorists who stopped to see his wonderful sculptures. I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Smith and his wife. My condolences on the death of this fine man!

Mary R. Canfield - January 19, 2017 at 06:24 PM

HC

“ *I extend my condolences. He was my doctor years ago when I was in Jr. High School in Dime Box, TX. He was a very nice man.*

Howard Coleman - March 15, 2016 at 03:05 PM

JC

“ *Griff,
Saw the notice for your father. I'm sorry to learn of his passing, but am happy he had such a long and full life. His artistic contributions will never be forgotten.
Jerry Cooper*

Jerry Cooper - March 03, 2016 at 06:29 PM

UA

“ *UT Dallas Student Wellness Center, Kacey Austin & Amanda purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr Joe Carlyle Smith.*



UT Dallas Student Wellness Center, Kacey Austin & Amanda
- March 03, 2016 at 10:34 AM