



## Leroy Smith

May 14, 1937 - February 5, 2026

Leroy Smith, 88, passed away peacefully the morning of February 5, 2026, surrounded by his loving family, and went home to be with the Lord.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, at Tanglewood Baptist Church, 11203 N. Highway 77, Lexington, Texas 78947, with Pastor Doug Brinson officiating. Burial will follow at Hugh Wilson Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the church on Tuesday, February 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., with family present from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. He was born on May 14, 1937, in Perryopolis, Pennsylvania, and was raised in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

At 17 years old, Leroy proudly joined the United States Marine Corps. He served as a radio operator during the Korean War, beginning a lifetime of service to others. While stationed at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, he met the love of his life, Betty. Leroy was 19 and Betty was 15 when they met, and from that young love grew a marriage that would last nearly 70 years. They were married on November 10, 1956, and built a life centered on faith, family, and devotion to one another.

After his honorable service in the Marines, Leroy worked at RadMac at Naval

Air Station Corpus Christi as a helicopter aircraft electrician. While living in Flour Bluff, he served as Fire Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department and coached his boys in Little League baseball, something they remembered with pride. He and his family spent many special times at HEB Camp in Leakey, Texas, where Leroy also served as a counselor and his sons attended camp. These trips created lasting memories for the entire family. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing on the beach and taking his family camping.

In 1973, Leroy accepted the Lord as his Savior. His faith became the foundation of his life. He soon began preaching and sharing the word of Jesus, encouraging many through his testimony and love for the Lord. In 1977, Leroy, Betty, and their four sons moved to Lexington, Texas, where they made their forever home. He worked for Koch Oil before opening Tanglewood Plants in 1986. He owned and operated the nursery for 25 years, forming friendships with many in the community. He was also a faithful member of Tanglewood Baptist Church for 40 years and dearly loved his church family.

The family also loved camping at Birch Creek on Lake Somerville. Leroy and Betty enjoyed traveling together, especially to the Smoky Mountains and Dollywood.

In 2017, Leroy was honored to participate in an Honor Flight, a meaningful recognition of his military service that meant so much to him and his loved ones.

Above all, Leroy was a family man. His wife and children were his heart, and when grandchildren and great-grandchildren came along, his world only grew brighter. After closing the nursery, he happily devoted even more time to his family and church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Nettie Smith; siblings

Charles Smith Jr., Esther Milich, Doloris Pirosk, Bill Smith, Virginia Youngker, and George Smith; and his grandson, Craig Cooper.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty Smith; his sister, Judy Vanyo; his sons and daughters-in-law Cody and Debi, Randy and Debby, Mark "Hootie" and Sue, and Roy and Rhonda; his grandchildren Tasha and Garrett Lutz, Shannon and Christopher Sr. Ferguson, Kayla and Phillip Markert, Amber and Justin Ender, Kasey and Colin Wiggins, Kolton and Geniveve Smith, Kimberly and David Jeter, Kirk Buchner, and Kasey and Willie Birnbaum; and his cherished great-grandchildren Elliott Lutz, Peyton, Christopher "CJ" Jr., and Brooklyn Ferguson, Mason and Abigail Markert, Cole and Emma Ender, Easton and Ace Wiggins (who is expected soon), Kaden and Nathan Jeter, Harrison Buchner, Jacob Carwile and Katie Birnbaum.

Leroy will be remembered for his steady faith, his servant's heart, his love for the outdoors, and the way he put his family first. He lived a full life, loved deeply, and left a legacy of faith and kindness that will live on in all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Wounded Warriors Project.

# Cemetery Details

## Hugh Wilson Cemetery

1040 County Road 456  
Lexington, TX 78947

# Previous Events

## Open Visitation

FEB 10. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Tanglewood Baptist Church  
11203 North Highway 77  
Lexington, TX 78947

## Visitation with Family

FEB 10. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Tanglewood Baptist Church  
11203 North Highway 77  
Lexington, TX 78947

## Church Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Tanglewood Baptist Church  
11203 North Highway 77  
Lexington, TX 78947



# Tribute Wall

CS

“ We are so sorry for your loss.  
Love, David, Carol and Christopher Schulz



---

**carol schulz** - February 13 at 02:05 PM

K(

“ Probably at least 10 years ago or so Pap Pap told me about how he used to work on military helicopter gunships and I very frequently still think about that conversation we had. It stuck with me because as a kid I liked military jets and helicopters and I had the coolest book about helicopter gunships and I remember I loved all the cool pictures of the rockets and machine guns attached to them. When he told me that he had worked on wiring all those weapons systems it brought back those fond childhood memories and how much I loved that book. I thought it was pretty cool that he actually worked on building them. Thank you for your service and for the memorable stories.

Semper Fi,  
Kirk Buchner

---

**Kirk Buchner (grandson)** - February 10 at 03:22 PM

MH

“ I will never forget when we had a family reunion and woke us up by loud music, song was Devil went down to Georgia. That was a wonderful weekend. We will miss you Uncle Leroy.

---

**Michelle Harris** - February 08 at 06:12 PM

TS

“ Troy and Veronica Simpson purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Leroy Smith.



---

**Troy and Veronica Simpson** - February 08 at 10:31 AM

TS

“ Troy and Veronica Simpson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leroy Smith.

---

**Troy and Veronica Simpson** - February 08 at 10:31 AM