



Raymond "RJ" Smith

October 26, 1944 - January 15, 2022

R.J. Smith, Jr.

October 26, 1944 – January 15, 2022

R.J. Smith, 77, of Deanville, passed away peacefully in his home on January 15, 2022.

Visitation, with family present, will be held on January 20 from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Caldwell. Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 21 at 2:00pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Deanville, with Terry Moon officiating. Burial will follow in St. John's Cemetery, Deanville.

R.J. was born on October 26, 1944 to Raymond James, Sr. and Ruby Lee Smith in Bryan, Texas as the oldest of two sons. He learned the value of hard work, service, dedication, and humility growing up on his parents' dairy farm. This led to his involvement in Future Farmers of America and later row crop farming along with his work career. He graduated from Caldwell High School in 1963. He married Barbara Ann Gerdes on June 26, 1965. After graduating high school, he went to Durham Business College. He began his work career at Alenco and retired from Alcoa in Rockdale after 35 years of service with a Career Safe Worker Award, working his entire career without a lost time injury. He was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church for most of his life, serving on church council and numerous committees. He was an active member of Deanville Volunteer Fire Department since its inception in 1979. He served as the fire department president for 37 years, leading many successful fundraisers and expansion of fire department facilities and

equipment to better serve the fire fighting needs of western Burleson County. In addition to the fire department fundraisers, he and Barbara worked at the Deanville Sons of Herman fundraisers and helped cook numerous pots of chili for community fundraisers including Relay for Life, Deanville Fairboosters, and Deanville Memorial Park. He was honored with the 2011 Burleson County Forever Young Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year. With his dedication to civic organizations and his willingness to serve all members in the community, he was fondly thought of by many as “mayor of Deanville”. R.J. was known to be the hub of information for all local happenings. He truly loved his community and was proud to serve. Aside from community work, R.J. enjoyed being on a tractor working his land or tending to cattle with the many friends he considered family. Speaking of family, he was 110% available for anything his children or grandchildren needed. As proud as he was of his children and community, he was even more proud of his grandchildren. They truly were his pride and joy. There is no telling how many miles R.J. put on vehicles in his life for his children and grandchildren. His family was not complete without his faithful dog companions throughout his life. He never met a dog that he didn’t quickly bond with. Serving others with love and humility fueled him.

He is preceded in death by parents, R.J., Sr. and Ruby Lee (Dworsky) Smith; brother, Charles M. Smith; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Johnnie and Lorine Gerdes; uncle, Andy (Libby) Smith; aunts, Glady (Marvin) Dvoracek, Norma (Frank) Kubin, and Willie Mae (Reid) Philp.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Barbara Ann Gerdes Smith of Deanville; daughter, Lisa Smith (Scott Anderson) of Deanville; son and daughter-in-law, John and Casey Smith of Deanville; son, Chris Smith (Patrick Johnston) of Deanville; sister-in-law, Barbara Smith of Bryan; sister-in-law, Debbie (Billy) Colley of Deanville; two granddaughters, Kate Smith and Natalie Smith; one grandson, Rowdy J. Smith; nephew, Scott (Julie) Smith; nieces Tami (Aaron) Wallace, Mary (Doug) Dean, and Jessica (Jason) Muzny; numerous great nieces and nephews; extended family; and friends-considered-as-family.

Serving as pallbearers will be Keith Ahrens, Billy Colley, John Charles Dvoracek, Billy Morsko, Scott Smith, Bradley Suehs, Cameron Suehs, and Lonnie Supak. Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren, Kate, Rowdy and Natalie Smith; Jeffrey Baldwin; Doug Dean; Randy Knesek; Ricky Knesek; Jason Muzny; and Deanville Fire Department Members.

Memorials may be made to the St. John's Lutheran Church Memorial Fund or Deanville Volunteer Fire Department.

Express condolences at PhillipsandLuckey.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **20**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

JAN **21**. 2:00 PM.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Deanville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Raymond "RJ" Smith*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - January 19, 2022 at 04:28 PM

MM

*Barbara & family
Please accept our heartfelt
condolences of your loving husband, R.J. Sending love, hugs
and prayers to all your family.
Molly, Polly, Joe, Jessie Cruz*

MOLLY Cruz Marquez - January 26, 2022 at 07:14 PM

KB

“ *Barbara & family,
I'm so sorry for the loss of RJ. May your wonderful memories bring
you peace in the days to come.*

Kammy Schwartz Baumann

Kammy Baumann - January 23, 2022 at 07:06 PM

MF

“ *Marcella And Gary Franzetti lit a candle in memory of Raymond "RJ" Smith*



Marcella and Gary Franzetti - January 21, 2022 at 01:11 PM

AW

“ *Barbara and family,
We were so sorry to hear about R.J. And also disappointed that we cannot attend the service at Deanville. We have so many happy memories of you & R.J., and beyond that the Gerdes and Smith families. May God comfort you and bring you much joy and hope in future days. This is God's promise to us through Christ our Savior.
Pastor Ardene & Burdine Wuthrich*

Ardene Wuthrich - January 21, 2022 at 12:30 PM

NF

“ *Nancy Faulk lit a candle in memory of Raymond "RJ" Smith*



Nancy Faulk - January 21, 2022 at 10:25 AM

NF

“ Sincerest condolences to Barbara and family, sending love and prayers to all,
Such a wonderful family and appreciate you all for all you've given to your friends and community.

Nancy Faulk

Nancy Faulk - January 21, 2022 at 10:24 AM

ES

“ Evonne Alford Sturm lit a candle in memory of Raymond "RJ" Smith



Evonne Alford Sturm - January 19, 2022 at 08:57 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.



January 19, 2022 at 06:45 PM



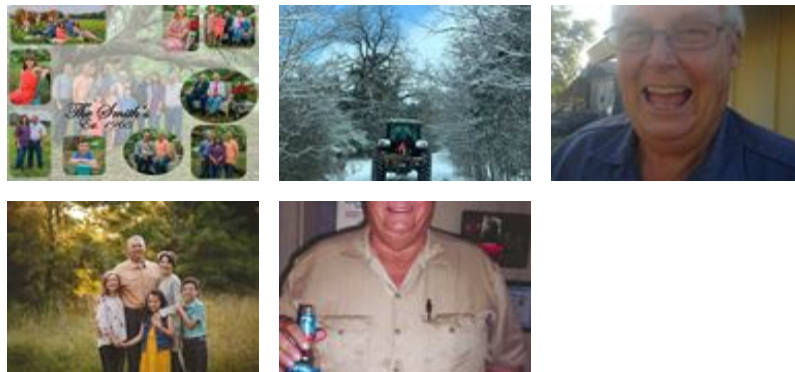
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.



January 19, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ 171 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - January 19, 2022 at 03:56 PM

PB

“ *Pete & Bliss Bednar purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



Pete & Bliss Bednar - January 19, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



January 19, 2022 at 11:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



January 18, 2022 at 06:32 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



January 18, 2022 at 12:12 PM



Michael
Zwernema

“ *Prayers for all of the Smith family. My memories of Mr. RJ go back as far as I can remember...from Sunday School and Church to hauling hay for he and his dad and just recently as he came to unlock the Fire Department for us...a lifetime of service to others. Great memories! God's peace to all.*

Michael Zwernemann - January 18, 2022 at 09:24 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



January 18, 2022 at 09:08 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.



January 17, 2022 at 10:35 PM



“ Lynette Supak lit a candle in memory of Raymond "RJ" Smith



Lynette Supak - January 17, 2022 at 08:59 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to Barbara and the children! RJ spent a lot of time in our store Kountry Korner Grocery where he always came in with a smile and talked to everyone in there - he never left anyone out! These memories will always be special to me! May you RIP - job well done!

Vicky Kloecker - January 17, 2022 at 02:51 PM



So sorry to Barbara and family. I worked at Alcoa with him and wrapped a lot of BBQ with him and Barbara at Deanville Hall and Deanville Fire Dept. I loved talking with him about Alcoa Friends lots of laughs and stories. I hauled lots of loads of gravel and millings for him everything was fine. He loved Deanville. I will miss his Smiling Face. May you REST IN PEACE R J SMITH.

Dwane Wiederhold - January 17, 2022 at 09:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



January 17, 2022 at 02:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



January 17, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond "RJ" Smith.*



January 16, 2022 at 10:19 PM



“ *Betty Brinkman lit a candle in memory of Raymond "RJ" Smith*



Betty Brinkman - January 16, 2022 at 02:40 PM

BB

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Barbara and the whole family and a host of friends at the passing of my long time friend, R J. As time goes on, the tears will stop and precious memories will remain. R J was a faithful member of St Johns Lutheran Church and a devoted member of The DVFD where he served as president for 37 years and only very recently retired from that office. R J and Barbara often volunteered in community organizations and fundraisers. He will be sorely missed. He is now at peace in heaven with saints gone on before and those to follow.

Betty Brinkman - January 16, 2022 at 02:37 PM

GI

“ Prayer's go out to the entire Smith family. R.J. was a sweet and kind person. Loved by many people.



Gary and Beverly Iselt - January 15, 2022 at 06:22 PM