



Gary Smith

September 29, 1941 - March 23, 2009

Gary Roger Smith went to be with his Lord and Savior on March 23, 2009 after fighting a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was preceded in death by his parents Charles David Smith and Gloria Ann Piester Smith. He is survived by one brother, Charles David Smith II and wife Edna of Beaver Dam Arizona, and one niece, Julia R Atkins and husband Tim, formally of Colorado City, TX. He has four Great nephews, Brandon Atkins, and wife Holly, of Coahoma, TX; Robbie Atkins, and wife Julie of Colorado City, TX; Michael Atkins, and wife Brooke of Big Spring, TX; and Tim Atkins II of Big Spring, TX. He has 3 Great-Great nephews, Cutter, Tanner and Rowdy Atkins, and 4 Great-Great nieces, Hope, Paige, Kayden, and Kamryn Atkins. He has many Aunts, Uncles, and numerous cousins that all loved him dearly as well. He was a great man who loved God and Country. He served in Vietnam with UDT/SEAL TEAM more than 15 years (July 1965-January 1981), starting with SEAL TEAM 1, Bravo Platoon, SEAL TEAMS 1 and 2 were in response to President Kennedy's desire and request to develop an Unconventional Warfare capability, the U.S. Navy established these two teams in 1962. Formed entirely with personnel from Underwater Demolition Teams. Their mission was to conduct counter guerilla warfare and clandestine operations in maritime and riverine environments. He spent 32 months in Vietnam, engaging in 257 combat missions. He was awarded the Purple Heart, three Bronze Stars, three Navy Commendation medals, two Navy Achievement medals, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and numerous campaign ribbons,

including the Combat Action ribbon. He earned second-class deep-sea diver status, Navy/Marine Corps parachute wings, Vietnam jump wings, and several other distinctions. He graduated with UDT Training Class 36 and U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Class 17. He retired from the Navy as a Master Chief Petty Officer and a Master EOD Technician. In 1991 he also took part in explosive ordinance disposal in Kuwait. He was a member of the DOHA Brotherhood while stationed in Kuwait. He loved his military brothers and the life they led together. Following his military retirement, he became a Deputy Sheriff in Jack County, Texas. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman; he traveled Africa as well as many other lands to hunt and fish, bringing back enormous trophies. He was the author of four published books detailing his life in the military, *Death in the Jungle*, *Death in the Delta*, *Master Chief*, and *DemoMen*. He donated his large and lengthy memoirs to the Navy Seal Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida. In honor of his love of all things military, memorials may be given to Disabled Veterans. This is just an update to let you know we will be at the Wesley Chapel Cemetery on Saturday, April 25th at 2:00PM for his graveside Memorial Service. Everyone is welcome to attend while we bury his ashes and share a few words about his life, and at that time we will be reading the eulogy he prepared himself years ago. This will be informal as these were his wishes, and all are welcome to share any kind words they feel are appropriate. We will go to the Green Frog following his memorial for anyone who wishes to join us. A picture video of Gary and some of his memorable moments, along with family and friends and some of his military buddies will be shared as well. These will be available to whoever would like to receive a copy. Thank you, Julia

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Smith

October 09, 2023 at 04:16 AM



“ Gary Smith

January 28, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ As Gary's younger brother we shared many memorable experiences. We were comparative yet our affection for each other, as brothers was always there.

My attendance at Gary's funeral was not possible due. to the demands of work and home. Gary would have understood and agreed.

We shared many common interests and had long and enlightening conversations.

God speed Bro. Calm waters and a following breeze.

Charles David Smith II

Charles David Smith II - July 14, 2020 at 10:51 AM



I went thru Navy Boot Camp with Gary in San Diego. It didn't take long for me, and I'm sure other Recruits, to know he was destined to become an accomplished warrior, leader of men & all 'round good guy in general. He was a notch above the rest of us. I'm only sorry that it took this long to hear about his departure.

*John Marano
Fountain Hills, Az.*

John marano - October 07, 2023 at 03:11 PM

JP

“ To my surprise Gary was the only seal instructor during the final phase where his technique of instructing included a constant calm manner, kind words and the ability to make you feel totally human, so unlike all the other instructors during first phase. From this point on in my stent with ST1 Gary got my attention and I became a instant fan of this great warrior. during my 2nd tour in country I spent my 2 weeks R&R visiting other platoons, I got word that Gary was adviser to a group of PRU,s in the central highlands, off I flew to his out post to say hi and spend a few days. I was received with a very warm welcome by him and his force of indigenous. I will carry this wonderful experience with me to my last day, what a great man this Gary boy be. Its a hugh honor. HOO YA!!! JP winter class 46

john passyka - January 10, 2020 at 11:58 PM

SD

“ Steve and I express our deepest sympathy to Gary's family. It was an honor for us to know Gary and his mother, Gloria. They were wonderful neighbors and friends. We are sadden by his death but know he is healed once again.

Steve A. Diden and Sharon Diden - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ We knew Gary and his Mom Gloria about as well as anyone ever could. We loved having them both in our home and considered them both part of our family. Gary and I talked many times about our military service. We will miss Gary very much as we do Gloria. They have both earned their place in Heaven. God bless you both.

Jerry & Margaret Smith - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ We will miss you! Thank you for serving our family and country...we will never forget you!

Robbie & Julie Atkins - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Julia and family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss and would like to express my sympathies to you. ~ In this time of loss and sadness, may your heart be filled with wonderful memories of love. We are never prepared for the loss of a loved one, but God is always prepared to help us through that loss. May His presence begin the healing in your heart and soul, and may His love surround you with the comfort only He can give.

Peggi and Harry Dalton

Peggi Dalton - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *My Uncle Gary*

*When your favorite uncle dies, it's really quite sad,
But knowing the suffering is gone now, makes it not so bad.
The knowledge gained from this kind and gentle man,
Gives strength and courage, much easier to make a stand.*

*Uncle Gary was a very brave and courageous soul, right to the end.
He gave up his healthy life, but never would he bend.
Teaching us the way to live by example was his true style.
To think of all he taught us, and now how we can smile.*

*So, Uncle Gary, at last you've made your final jump,
The landing will be easy, you won't even make a small thump.
We'll carry on the way you would want us, getting the most of every
day,
And along the way, we'll pause and reflect, even taking time for a
little play.*

*Thanks for all you've given us. In our hearts you'll always be there.
The life you lived and passed onto us, we'll continue to show others,
just how much we care.
Your legacy will never fade or falter, your giving has been so fine.
Now, a new life begins, for You. Your Star in Heaven will always
Shine!!*

We love you and miss you dearly, Julia and family.

Julia Smith Atkins - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *We will miss you Green Brother. Thank you for all you did for our
country. We will remember you! My deepest condolences to your
family.*

Roger Guerra - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HT

“ I met Gary by telephone after learning of his role as Point Man for LT Meston in Foxtrot Platoon. Mr. Meston and I became close friends after the Vietnam War and he was dealing with a number of "demons" that carried over into his civilian life. Gary was instrumental in relieving Mr. Meston of one of the major guilt feelings he carried. Gary would discuss his desire to seek God's direction in his life and mailed me information he had written about his missionary endeavors (I have donated this material to the National UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida). Mr. Meston made several trips to Texas to visit with Gary and always returned encouraged by Gary's pastoral help. Gary's mother was also a good friend and always expressed concern about the progression of Gary's illness. Gary was a superb encourager to my friend Mr. Meston. I am sure if Mr. Meston were alive today, he would express this tribute much better than me. Rest in peace Gary!

H. T. - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Gary "Smitty" Smith
"One helluva Operator"

Jerry J Fletcher - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ May I add my condolences to the many you will receive on the passing of your loved one, Gary R. Smith. It is such a sad day to loose a loved one. But as my fellow Caregivers often speak, there is some relief to the loved one that suffered in their lonely world of Alzheimer. I do hope you see bluer skies ahead now that Gary is at peace.

After 5 years of the usual extreme trauma as the sole Caregiver I interned my wife into an Alzheimer Care Home on Mar 4, 2009. May you find peace in your forthcoming days. Bless.

Ken Garrett - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Gary was a true Patriot and outstanding operator. He was upset with me when I blew the barrel off his favorite shotgun which he called BABY. We will miss him but we will be together again at our final reunion. God Bless you GARY.

Richard A. Pearson - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ I'm So sorry to hear of Chief Smith's Passing. I spent three youthful wonderful years learning from Gary he was smart as a whip and a great operator. He saved my butt a few times and I still owe him a few. He will be missed.

Russell Brownier - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Gary will be greatly missed. He was one of my instructors in SEAL BASIC INDOCTRINATION back in 1971. The things that he taught me and many other UDT/SEALs had a great deal to do with our success and survival in combat in Vietnam. No words can express the loss that I feel. Fair winds and Following Seas. Hooyah Gary!

John Chalus - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Upon checking into UDT-12, post BUD/S and Ft. Benning, in late October 1979, I had the pleasure of meeting Senior Chief (at that time) Smith. I informed the Senior Chief that I needed to go on leave to get married and he granted my wish and informed me that "we" would have a good ol' time when I returned; I didn't know what that meant but he did (unfortunate for me...)! Getting married in "the teams" gives new meaning to "marriage" and the Senior Chief was the mechanism for its reinforcement - Ha! Master Chief, you were always a stellar example and your sense of humor will always be remembered by those who had the pleasure of crossing your path! Hoo-yah! Woody!

Bill (Woody) Woodward - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Gary was a true patriot and I was proud to have served with him. He commanded the utmost respect from his teammates. In special warfare parlance he was a real operator and commanded the utmost respect from seniors and subordinates. His books were galvanizing. He life after retirement shows he never gave up his zeal for adventure. I should have known he hailed from Texas. He was a real hero in the Alamo tradition. Save a spot for me for Morning PT up there Gary!

Dennis Baber - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ I am a retired Oregon State Trooper and friend of a Navy SEAL who served with Gary. He told me of Gary's kindness, accomplishments, and patriotism.

I just wanted to express my condolences to his family, friends and fellow "Team" mates.

Gary's years of service to his community and country will not be forgotten.

Bob Dent - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ Gary was the best SEAL Team One shot with weapons I ever had the priviledge to serve with. But mostly, I cherish his commraderie and friendship no matter what we were doing. Bless you my fellow SEAL.

Eric Arumae

Eric Arumae - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

“ To all of his seal buddies:

I have to say that when I read the comments that you each wrote, I cried much more, but it was a good cry. I know that Gary may not have children of his own that are here to mourn him with us, but each of you are out there with your memories of him and the wonderful comments you left. They meant so much to me, and I would like to ask permission to read them at his graveside when we bury his ashes in Jack County. He will be buried alongside my Grandparents as he wished. We will be there along with family and close friends to share his eulogy that he wrote many years ago. I know he would not say a word, but smile his beautiful smile if he were to read them. He would be embarrassed and shrug off all of his accomplishments, and say it was his duty, but you knew. He valued and loved each of you with all his heart and felt he was more privileged to be able to serve with you than anything in the world. He would never talk much of his experiences with us, I learned more about his life in the military from reading his books. We loved to hear his stories and how much my sons loved to go hunting and camping with him and learn from his vast experiences. He instilled a great many qualities in me and my family, and now has left me with an empty spot in my heart for him. But I know that he is no longer suffering and is in Gods gracious arms, and is now seeing all our family that has passed before him waiting there.

Thank you again for your words and praise, I loved him more than I can express and to hear your thoughts meant so much.

If you ever wish to call and share more stories, please feel free to do so. I would love to hear them.

My cell is 325-260-6583

With great respect and gratefulness to each of you,

Julia

Julia - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ *Rest in peace Gary,
You did your duty, to God and Country.
I still remember your visit when I was at China Lake in the early
70's.
We played pinochle until the wee hours and put away some cheap
"Red Mountain" Rose. The next morning you were running before
dawn and I was suffering.
Those were different times, in difficult days. We were both in an
awkward set of events at the time but we both overcame them and
with the Grace of our Maker to become whole again.*

Tom Griffiths - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM