



Howard Lee Smith

DEC 17, 1936 - AUG 1, 2023



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The Smith family has made final arrangements for his internment in the Trinity Memorial Gardens of Trinity Florida on August 9th at 1130am and invites you to join them in a memorial service to celebrate Howard's life.

Howard was deeply devoted to serving his community and loving his family. Howard exhibited this at an early age in the Boy Scouts, where he rose to Eagle Scout, and was also an avid member of the Civil Air Patrol, becoming one of California's top cadets. In college, he joined ROTC, which culminated in being commissioned as an officer in the US Army. He loved the Army and loyally served his country, rising to the rank of Captain. He was the only First Lieutenant in the California National Guard in command of a Company and he served at brigade headquarters and on staff of the battle group. He reached the crossroads of continuing in the service or following his career path. Ultimately, he chose his community and family and was honorably discharged. Howard put the same energy into the job as he put into his other endeavors and rose to Chief Personnel Officer (CPO) at his company at the time of his retirement. Even after retirement, Howard looked for ways to make a difference and joined SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives) in Fairfield County, CT, volunteering as a counselor for small businesses and entrepreneurs needing assistance from business plans to strategies. Even after moving with his wife Marilyn to Florida, Howard joined the Pasco-Hernando County chapter of SCORE and served as both counselor and chapter President and Chairman. More recently, Howard joined an organization of dedicated instructors teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) to individuals interested in bettering their language skills. Howard loved helping these individuals develop their competency in English and even helped them successfully complete job applications and prepare for interviews to achieve their employment goals. Ironically, this brought Howard back to his early passion in college for teaching, which he didn't pursue in order to follow his business path.

Lest someone think that Howard was all work and no play, it has to be said that he was a family man like few others. He grew up in a time and place where his male role models spent much of their time away from their families, but Howard deliberately chose a different way. The Smith family grew up close with a great deal of love and support. He and his wife Marilyn loved to travel



Obituary

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and took every opportunity to explore the world. They passed this passion on to their children. When the next generation came, Howard and Marilyn embraced early retirement in order to become intimately involved with their grandchildren. He was looking forward to meeting the next generation with the coming birth of his new great-granddaughter. His door was always open, his handkerchief at the ready for any tears, his arms stretched for bear-hugs and handshakes alike.

Howard leaves behind his loving family - son Eric and his fiancé Tracy; daughter Shelley and her husband Scott; granddaughter Erin and her husband Enrique; grandson Sean and his wife Lauren; and his great-granddaughter Maggie (coming in December). He leaves behind a legacy of many he has helped throughout his life - futures that would likely not be where they stand without his wisdom and ever outstretched hands. Everyone he touched will miss his love, friendship, guidance and support.

He knew the day would soon come that he would leave our earthly world and return Home to his Lord. He was predeceased by Marilyn, his wife of 53 years and was looking forward to being together forever. It gives his family great peace knowing Howard won't walk alone.


Howard, rest in peace and welcome Home....until we see you again.


Matthew 23:25: His Lord said unto him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

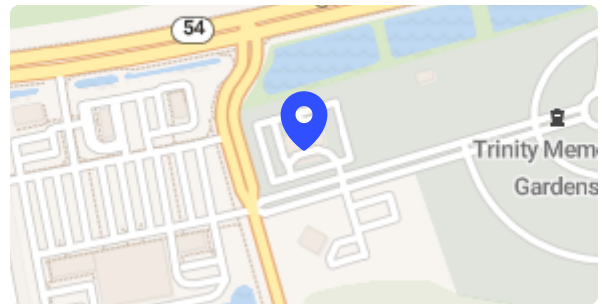


Memorial Service


 **Wednesday**, August 9, 2023


 11:30 AM ET


 **Trinity Memorial Funeral Home**
12609 Memorial Dr, Trinity FL 34655

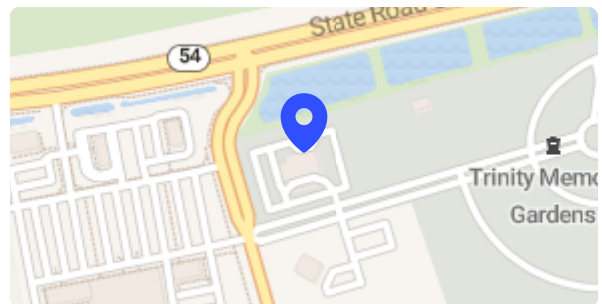


Inurnment


 **Wednesday**, August 9, 2023


 12:30 PM ET

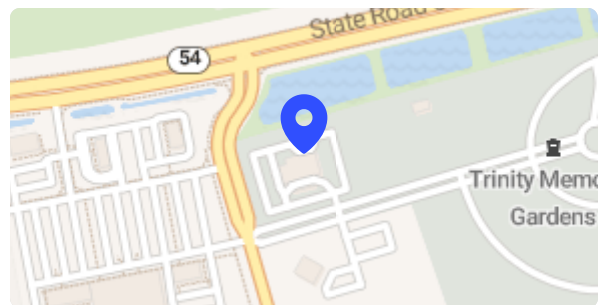
 **Trinity Memorial Gardens**
12609 Memorial Dr., Trinity FL 34655



Cemetery Details

 **Trinity Memorial Gardens**
12609 Memorial Dr., Trinity FL 34655

 **(727) 203-4055**





Tribute Wall

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AD

Anne Marie Dalton posted:

I was sorry to hear of Howard's passing, but it is a comfort to know that he is now reunited with his beloved Marilyn. Howard was one of the first people that my father, Bill Dalton, met when he moved to Florida in the late 1990's. They worked together at SCORE, and formed a firm friendship based on mutual interests. Since my mother was not ready to leave her grandchildren in Massachusetts to move to Florida full time initially, my father spent every holiday with Howard and Marilyn for some years. When my mother, Mary Ann, eventually joined my father down south, she was given the same hospitality and friendship, and I was regaled annually with photos of Howard's amazing Christmas villages and Marilyn's wonderful cooking. In time, I was fortunate to be able to enjoy both myself. My parents both passed in 2017, three weeks to the day apart, after 60 years of marriage. Their niche is just six rows above that of Howard and Marilyn in the beautiful and serene chapel at Trinity Memorial Gardens. RIP, you are all greatly missed.

September 13 at 12:55 PM

LL

Lorraine A Lincoln posted:

My heart goes out to Howard's family on his passing. I have known him for well over 40 years working with and for him at Keltec and REICO in Fort Walton Beach Florida. Howard and Marilyn were very unique people and very special people. He missed Marilyn very much after her passing and his faith was all important to him. We shared the love of family history and ancestry and he gave me many helpful hints in researching mine as well.. I know he loved the Christmas season and would spend weeks ahead of time putting up his fabulous Christmas villages of Dept. 56. He had the most amazing Christmas villages that he shared with me via photographs. Mine is extremely small compared to his but still very enjoyable. He thoroughly enjoyed setting up the scenes and fantastic they were as well. Once again, the world won't be the same without Howard and Marilyn. Lorraine A. Lincoln'Fort Walton Beach, FL.

September 5 at 1:05 PM

FO

Frances Oldehoff posted:

I first met Howard through Marilyn as we were both Nurses at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield, NJ. Loved the clambakes at their home. After Marilyn left us, I had a long Christmas letter every yr with updates on all the Family. I will miss that this yr. Rest in peace with your beloved Marilyn. God Bless all the Family who he loved deeply. Love and Blessings, Fran Oldehoff

September 5 at 11:47 AM



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BP

Betty And Thurman Pace posted:

I was without a computer for 6 weeks and just now found your e-mail. I can't begin to tell you how sad we are for you. Thurman and Howard were long time vets of Amstar and spent many hours remembering things. Howard was always just a phone call away and was so patient with me and my questions. We looked forward to all his e-mails and laughed along with him. He was our dearest and most beloved friend and we will miss him so much. Our condolences and love go out to you.

August 29 at 4:03 AM

JH

Jerry Heron posted:

My sincere condolences for the loss of your father/grandfather. I have fond memories of Howard during our time at Domino Sugar and our friendship with Howard and Marilyn included our monthly dinner group gatherings and various trips together. I hope your wonderful memories of Howard will give you peace during this difficult time. Love always, Jerry Heron

August 26 at 9:53 AM

RA

Rick Acker posted:

I'm so Sorry to hear of Howards passing he and I are distant cousins from the Littlejohn line . I have been talking to him for years and shared lots with him . I'll so miss all his emails, some I agreed with and some I didn't but as both veterans we could agree with most RIP great friend and Cousin.

August 9 at 5:40 PM

GS

Gail Shahnazarian posted:

So sorry to hear. He was a special friend. Always willing to help, full of care and willing to share his many jokes and information. Will miss him.

August 9 at 3:46 PM



Donald D'anna posted:

All of the stories here are the of the way Howard touched each of us simply by knowing him. Each us learned a lot from him simply by being family or friend of he and Marilyn. Bless you both and are enjoy each others reunion.

August 9 at 3:40 PM



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EM

Edward James Mangold posted:

Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your wonderful Father, Grandfather and our best friend of 52 years. It all started on a rainy day in Oct. 1972 in Scotch Plains, NJ. Driving to the bus stop we saw a man walking and offered a lift. It was Howard. Many years later we were still giving him a lift! But in return we got a man we considered to be our dearest and most trustworthy friend. A bigger bonus was his wonderful wife Marilyn who we also loved dearly. Together we shared parties, monthly dinners and watching Shelly and Eric grow up, go to college and find life partners. Enjoying all the pictures of the Grandchildren, Erin and Sean growing up and their marriages. Retirement brought both families to Florida. Although living on opposite coasts we always knew that if needed Howard would be there for us. He was a great Dad and friend and will be sorely missed. Ed and Betty Mangold

August 9 at 12:27 PM

HS

Hermine Seigies posted:

My deepest sympathy for your loss. I worked for Howard back in the early '80s when I was at Amstar and he was truly a wonderful person to work for -- very dedicated, honest and genuine. I learned so much from him. He will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. May he rest in peace. Hermine Seigies

August 9 at 4:14 AM

MB

Mike Bertolino posted:

I am deeply sorry for the loss of a great man, husband, father and friend. I met Howard in 1981 when I worked for him at Amstar. Howard was a great mentor and, more importantly, a great and caring individual. We've kept in touch through emails over the years and I always enjoyed and respected his input on many topics. What I truly liked about Howard was his caring and nurturing attitude towards the people he worked with and mentored. Howard made you feel good about yourself, something we all need now and then. To the family, I have you all in my thoughts and prayers. Howard spoke highly of all of you and was proud of all of your accomplishments. I know this because he always shared photos in his emails. I will miss Howard and I am proud to have known him, worked for him and been his friend all these years. He is truly one of a kind and will be remembered! Mike Bertolino

August 8 at 6:10 PM



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VG

Victoria Greenwood posted:

So so sorry for the loss of a beautiful person and friend!! What a beautiful Obituary, Howard was a very Special Person, living next store to us for years, we always knew if we needed anything they would be there! Our daughter Shannon spent many hours at their house trading Disney Movies (always came back with a few) she had so much fun with them!! We will miss him greatly! We love you Howard! Kevin, Vicky, and Shannon Greenwood 🙏

August 8 at 2:54 PM

AC

Ann Marie Crosswhite posted:

So very sorry for your loss. Howard was a wonderful man. I first met him when I worked at Aiken Advanced Systems. When the company folded and he moved to Florida, my husband Hill and I would stay with Howard and Marilyn for a few nights when we went to Tampa for Marine Corps reunions. Always so much fun and good food. When Marilyn died, it just so happened that we were going to be at a reunion again at the time of the funeral. We were so glad we could attend and surprised Howard by showing up. I'm sorry I can't be there for Howard's service. He was a great friend and will be greatly missed. Since my husband passed in September, 2018, Howard and I kept in touch by email. We were friends for over 25 years. Prayers for him and the family. God bless. Ann Marie Crosswhite

August 8 at 1:41 PM

LH

Lynn Hanson posted:

What a beautiful obituary! Thank you for sharing a life well lived. Howard touched so many life's. Well done Good & faithful servant!

August 8 at 11:53 AM

AN

Ann Norton posted:

Howard was such a very special person. He cared about the people he taught in the NEW BEGINNINGS ESL class and they loved him. He encouraged them and searched his computer for lessons that would develop their ability to speak English. I loved and admired him and will miss him when classes begin in September. Ann Norton, ESL

August 8 at 11:49 AM



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Dianne D'anna lit a candle in honor of Howard.



August 8 at 11:01 AM



Dianne D'anna posted:

Don and I were so blessed to have Howard and Marilyn in our life! We were neighbors for many years and then we moved to Heritage Springs. Howard was the best friend you could ever ask for! He and Don did so many things together. I loved cooking for him too. Will be so ever grateful to him in our life. ❤️

August 8 at 11:00 AM



G Timothy Petito, Od posted:

Howard was an amazing man! We so enjoyed his sharing of countries he had visited and the weekly funny jokes he would send to our EMail. I find myself still looking daily to see what he was sending. We so loved both Marilyn and Howard. Jill and Bobbie will miss his great bear hugs he would give us when he left after his appointment. Lynn we will miss your dad greatly but you were very fortunate to have such a special man to call dad.He will always be in out thoughts and prayer. Dr. G Timothy Petito and Jill and Bobbie.

August 8 at 10:52 AM



Love, Don And Dianne sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Smith family.



August 8 at 8:24 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Howard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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