



Robert Burns Smith

February 24, 1929 - October 11, 2019

Bob was born February 24, 1929 at home on Kelso Rd. in the Clintonville neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio. He was a 1946 graduate of Columbus North High School and a graduate of The Ohio State University in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Bob began his journalism career in 1944 when he joined the editorial staff of the former Ohio State Journal as a copy boy. He soon became a police reporter, then advanced to general assignment reporter covering City Hall and the city political “beat” before he entered the United States Air Force at the outbreak of the Korean War. Assigned to the 85th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron , Bob served as a jet fighter pilot and achieved the rank of Captain commanding a flight of all-weather fighter interceptors. Bob returned to the Journal in 1955 and later joined the Columbus Dispatch staff as Assistant City Editor in 1959. He rose through the ranks of the Dispatch Printing Company and eventually was promoted to Editor-in-Chief in 1989. Bob retired from this position in 1996 after serving the company for 52 years.

Bob proudly served his community as President of the Ohio Historical Society (1988-1995), Trustee Dawes Arboretum, and Trustee Arthur E. James Cancer Hospital and Research Center. He was a member of the Crestview Presbyterian Church, Associated Press of Ohio, American Society of Newspaper Editors, York Temple Country Club, Masons, Rotary, and many others. Of all these associations, Bobs greatest joy came from his 59-year marriage to Marjorie Ann Otten of Linn Grove, Iowa.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Blanche Smith; wife, Marjorie Smith; brother, Francis (Margaret) Smith; and niece, Susan Harkins. Bob was also preceded in death by most of his Iowa family, George and Stella Otten, Bernice (Lyle) Hohbach, Irene (Buck) Johnson, Lloyd (Elaine) Otten, Harold (Shirley) Otten, Carl Miller, Gary Otten, He is survived by his daughter, Lana (Bruce) Smith; son, Craig (Stella) Smith; grandchildren, Colin Smith and Charlotte Smith; great-granddaughter, Taylor Smith; nephew, Steve (Dianne) Smith, Ralph Harkins; and from Iowa, Jeannette Miller, Carol Otten and many nieces and nephews.

Bob loved OSU sporting events, his place on Silver Lake in Iowa, and the many friends and loved ones who shared his broad interests. Bob always had a good story to tell and could easily relate them to others. Bob led a full and rewarding life. He will be truly missed.

Calling hours will be held Thursday, October 17, 2019 at RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High St., Worthington, from 4pm to 7pm. A service will be held on Friday, October 18, 2019 at the funeral home at 10am. Burial will be at Northlawn Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Charity Newsies or Crestview Presbyterian Church.

Thanks go out to the Forum at Knightsbridge and to the doctors and staff at Riverside Hospital for helping make Bob's last weeks and days both enjoyable and peaceful.

Condolence may be made to the family at www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

OCT 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-4006
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Service

OCT 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-4006
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Burial

OCT 18 (ET)

Northlawn Memory Gardens
7060 OH - 3
Westerville, OH 43082

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Burns Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Dear Family of Bob Smith,
Let me express sympathy to the family of one of the very best editors in the newspaper business. He was a true gentleman and one could always talk with him about ongoing cases that involved the prosecuting attorneys office or other public matters. His impressive background and involvement in many community activities, donating his time and expertise to community organizations is unsurpassed. He made a difference.*

May God bless him and keep him.

*Sincerely,
George Smith, Senior U.S. District Court Judge, Southern District of Ohio*

George Smith - October 16, 2019 at 01:58 PM



“ *I can't help but smile every time I think of both Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith. We teenagers were at everyone's homes like it was ours as we migrated through Junior and Senior High School. So sorry for your loss to you Lana and the entire family. I will smile a lot of Thursday thinking of your dad.*

Deb Armitage - October 15, 2019 at 01:45 PM




“ *Mr. Smith was one of the kindest people I have ever met. He treated his employees as family and was always positive towards their work!*

Dave Stephenson - October 15, 2019 at 10:31 AM

JD

“ *Bob Smith gave me my first job at the Columbus Dispatch. I always remembered him for that. That was a pivotal time in my life and I always regarded Mr. Smith as my rescuer. After that, I rarely had the opportunity to talk to him, But he was always kind and thoughtful when I did see him in my department. I never forgot him and was sorry to hear of his passing. I send my condolences to his family.*



*Joann Kaplet Duff
Lancaster, Ohio*

Joann Kaplet Duff - October 14, 2019 at 10:51 AM