



Stephen Philip Smith

March 11, 1944 - March 11, 2023

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Stephen (Steve) Philip Smith, 79, of Oxford passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at his residence. The service celebrating Steve's life will take place on July 7th, 2023, at the Tahoma National Veterans Cemetery in Kent, Washington (18600 SE 240th Street).

Steve was welcomed into this world on March 11, 1944, in Tacoma, Washington, as a son to the late Harry and Kathryn Smith.

Steve was a graduate of Stadium High School where he served as class president and played drums in the concert band. He continued his education at Western Washington University where he was involved in the Young Republicans. However, his education was placed on hold as the Vietnam Conflict began. Steve willfully enlisted in the United States Army and faithfully served his country until he was honorably discharged from active duty in 1971.

Upon his return to civilian life, Steve completed his Bachelor's degree, graduating from Western Washington University also in 1971. He joined the Tacoma Police Department in 1973 and served on the force for twenty years before retiring. During his tenure in law enforcement, he held various roles

such as Union President and as a negotiator of the SWAT team.

Steve met his loving wife, Janice, soon after joining the police department.

They married in 1976 and the couple were together forty-six years before his passing. Janice and Steve had two amazing children who became the focus of their worlds.

After retiring from the police department in 1993, Steve worked as an insurance fraud investigator for USAA Insurance Company and various other "retirement" jobs.

Steve spent his golden years practicing a multitude of hobbies, from using his investigative skills combing through genealogy records all the way to baiting a hook and casting a fishing line with the grandchildren.

Above all other things, Steve cherished his time with family. Steve would show up to soccer or baseball games in his police uniform. All the way up to the week prior to his passing, Steve tracked the grandchildren's sporting events, boy scouts and concerts.

Although he has departed from our presence, his love of family and passion for life will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of his loved ones.

Steve leaves behind a loving family to continue walking down the path of life in his absence: wife, Janice Smith of Oxford; son, Andrew Smith (Leighanne) and children Kendall, Wyatt and Hannah of Scottsdale, Arizona; daughter, Melinda Scruggs (Christopher) and children Cohen, Carder and Caroline of Abbeville, Mississippi; brother, Lowell Smith (Dorothy) of Hood River, Oregon and nieces Gretchen Hopper, Helen Holland and Laura Manning.

He was preceded in death his parents, Harry and Kathryn Smith.

The staff at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is honored to serve the Smith family as they begin to walk through this new season of life.

Tribute Wall

SE

“ Steve was such a nice neighbor to us back in NE Tacoma. I remember his enthusiasm for Hockey, his lovely wife, Janice and their 2 great kids!

Sue Elkin - March 27, 2023 at 11:51 PM

SS

“ Steve and I served together in Viet Nam with the 101st MI Detachment. I also had some contact with him during our years in Tacoma. Then I lost track of him. About a year ago he contacted me. We renewed our friendship. It was always a pleasure to talk to him. He was always a patriot. I miss him.
Steve Seabury

Steve Seabury - March 25, 2023 at 08:22 AM

KJ

“ Steve has been the friend that you wish for. Fishing together was our passion. During the years with children at home it was difficult to fit these times in, but when we were able to, they were memorable. A way we would fit in a fishing trip was to do what we called a power drive. We would leave from Tacoma early in the morning and go to eastern Washington (about a 4 hour drive 1 way). We usually did not know our exact destination but we didn't worry as we had the driving time to make up our minds.

The first couple of hours was usually spent venting about problems at our places of employment. Once we had this off our chests we settled into the beauty of God's creation, the enjoyment of each other's company and the discussion about what lake will be the hot spot that we need to try this time.

One of our memorable fall trips took us to Jamison Lake. That day the fish were our friends. We were catching fish all the time and from what we could see very few other people were catching any. After awhile we could not contain our enjoyment. We would whoop and holler every time we caught a fish. (Hee Hee) I guess we figured we had spent many other days listening to fisherman doing it, to our dismay, that our time to enjoy the fun had arrived.

As Steve and Janice migrated east, I was able to arrange my travels for business or to visit our children such as to be able to stop by and visit and of course spend some time fishing. We added to our fishing history at the 10,000 ft level in Colorado and the bass lakes of Minnesota.

I am sure he is whooping and holler in heaven today as he is catching as many fish as he wants and he will not be suffering with the issues he had on this earth. I am looking forward to joining him someday up there and joining in the fun. Steve, my grammar and language skills should be better up there.

Keith Johnson

Keith Johnson - March 22, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ *Hickory Farms Savory and Sweet Snacker Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Philip Smith.*



March 22, 2023 at 12:39 AM



“ *We have many great memories of Steve when he and Janice lived in Tacoma Wa. Then when they moved to Alexandria MN, we would stop for a visit on our way East every summer. Steve was instrumental in getting me involved with my genealogy. He researched and encouraged me to move forward in my searching as well. In his search of my genealogy, we learned we were cousin's way down the line.
He and Janice always made us feel welcomed when we visited. Enjoyed all the conversations about politics and anything else that was happening in the world.
He will be greatly missed. We are so blessed to have known him. Till we meet on those streets of gold with our Lord Jesus.
Linda Johnson*

Linda Johnson - March 21, 2023 at 11:45 PM



“ *We will miss our cousin Steve. He and Janice have been a great support through the years and many good times and adventures together
We will miss you Steve but we look forward to seeing you again in heaven. Love Richard and Betty*

Richard Deyo - March 17, 2023 at 11:16 AM