



## Henry "Don" Donald Smith

December 19, 2025

Henry Donald "Don" Smith, 81, passed away peacefully on December 19th, 2025, in Florence, South Carolina, surrounded by family. Don is survived by his wife of 57 years, Grethe Smith; his sons, Erik and Austin; his brother, Wendall Soles; and his sister, Sandra McCormick and her husband Clyde. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Henry Smith and Annie Powers Smith, his brothers, Larry Smith and Ronald Smith, and his sister, Mary Frances Daniels.

Born and raised in Latta, South Carolina, Don joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 18. He served on the submarine USS Salmon based out of San Diego, where he met Grethe. His service in the Navy was a source of pride throughout his life, and he cherished attending reunions with his shipmates. After his naval service, Don and Grethe married and moved to the Pacific Northwest. While in Washington, he worked as an outside sales representative for the industrial distributor Pacific Rubber. He was later transferred to Colorado to manage the company's Central States Hose branch office, which he eventually purchased. His business was a source of enjoyment for Don and his family; even after retirement, he continued to place orders and review sales reports.

During his life in Colorado, Don raised his family in Arvada and worshipped at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakewood, where his sons attended elementary school. He enjoyed taking his family camping and skiing in the Colorado mountains. Don and Grethe were also members of the Denver

Danes club and enjoyed participating in the club's social events.

Don was always on the go, whether finding new customers in the Rocky Mountains, visiting extended family in Denmark and Italy, traveling to vendors' factories in Taiwan, or navigating his boat down a river to the Atlantic Ocean. While he loved travel and boating, his greatest passion was fishing. Don enjoyed fishing in Alaska and traveled there several times, initially with his business partners from Washington and later with his sons and his brother Ronald.

Don retired to South Carolina to be close to his extended family and the ocean.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 27th, 2025, at 1pm at Latta Baptist Church, 202 North Marion Street, Latta, South Carolina.

The Directors of Kistler Hardee Funeral Home are honored to be serving the Smith family.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC **27**. 1:00 PM (Est)

Latta Baptist Church  
202 N Marion St  
Latta, SC 29565  
(843) 752-5355

# Tribute Wall

ES

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



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**Erik Smith** - January 14 at 09:32 PM



“ To the "Smith" family I am so very sorry for your loss.

*Don ( Smitty ) was a large part of my younger life. He was a mentor, boss and friend of mine for a number of years when we lived in the Denver area.*

*Both Don & his wife treated us as family. We are thankful to them for all they did to help us and the friendship we developed with them.*

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**Don Adams** - January 07 at 11:58 AM

GS

*Thank you for your kind words, Erik and Austin thought Don and Grace were their grandparents when they came and stayed with us. We had some good times and good memories to look back on. I wish you could have been at the beautiful service we had for Don at the church he went to when he was a kid and growing up until he left to join the Navy. I met Don when he returned from Viet Nam and was getting ready to get out of the Navy. Don was really proud of his time he spent on the Submarine and enjoyed it so much. It's hard getting used to him not being here anymore. We were married for 57 years and we felt God really blessed our marriage. I'm really considering moving back to Denver so I can be close to Erik & Austin. Please say hi to Carmen. Love, Grethe*

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**Grethe Smith** - January 21 at 10:26 AM



*Grethe, You are very welcome. I would have liked to have been there also. But under the circumstances it just wasn't something we could do. Your comment regarding Mom & Dad made me chuckle..;-)*

*I understand why Don was proud of his time in the military and on the submarine. I was also in the military (Army) back in the early 70's. I was stationed on a anti aircraft missile site. That is where I met and married Carmen in a small town about 10 miles from there.*

*We will be married 50 years this coming fall. I can only imagine how difficult it is for you, when you spend that much time with someone they become a part of who you are.*

*I wouldn't blame you for moving back to the Denver area. That's probably what we would do in that situation.*

*If you would like to contact either of us Eric has my cell phone number. Much Love Don & Carmen*

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**Don Adams** - February 09 at 04:07 PM

AM

“ A. McRavin lit a candle in memory of Henry "Don" Donald Smith



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**A. McRavin** - December 28, 2025 at 08:25 PM

JC

“ My husband, Derrell Chandler met Mr. Don while he was at the Pyresterian Home receiving rehab. They instantly became friends. Derrell shared with Mr. Don that I grew up in Latta. I met him on Thanksgiving and was like I had always known him. Each time I saw him we talked about growing up in small town and sharing good memories. We talked about cooks for Christ and made a date for their next cook date in January. My heart is sad that we can't keep that date and my heart is also blessed to have know Mr. Don a wonderful and caring man for only a short time. His family is in our heart an prayers. Derrell and Joyce Chandler

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**Joyce Chandler** - December 28, 2025 at 04:13 PM

GS

Thank you so much for your kind words about Don. He did tell me about meeting and talking to you. Don was a wonderful man and I'm blessed to have been married to him for 57 years. Sincerely, Grethe

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**Grethe Smith** - January 21 at 10:34 AM

BA

Don, or Smitty as we called him was a very good shipmate of ours from 1964 to 1967 on the submarine USS Salmon SS-573. Smitty was well liked and respected by all of us who serve with him, he was truly an inspiration to all of his shipmates. Rest your oars Shipmate, we have the watch.

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**Bili (Andy) Anderson** - May 06 at 10:48 AM

BM

“ Bob Marks purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Henry "Don" Donald Smith.



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**Bob Marks** - December 26, 2025 at 01:00 PM

WH

“ Wyoming Bearing / PT Hose purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Henry "Don" Donald Smith.



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**Wyoming Bearing / PT Hose** - December 26, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Henry "Don" Donald Smith.



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December 26, 2025 at 11:11 AM

CE

“ Crew at Fittings Export purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Henry "Don" Donald Smith.



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**Crew at Fittings Export** - December 23, 2025 at 01:42 PM

TF

“ *The Benford and Walker Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Henry "Don" Donald Smith.*



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**The Benford and Walker Family** - December 23, 2025 at 10:51 AM

WS

“ *To the Smith family we are very sorry to hear about Don. We met Don when my daughter found Bandit roaming around our neighborhood. From that point on we always stopped by and spoke to Don when we were out in the neighborhood.*

*Sincerely the Skinner Family*

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**William Skinner** - December 23, 2025 at 09:10 AM

GS

*Thank you so much for thinking about Don and sending the beautiful flowers, so kind of you. Sincerely, Grethe Smith*

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**Grethe Smith** - January 21 at 10:42 AM