



H. Wayne Smith

August 16, 1929 - October 24, 2019

A precocious child and a gifted artist from childhood who described his early heroes as “achievers,” by the age of 14 Wayne was hired to run the Omaha Police Department’s sign shop during summer vacation, painting traffic signs and creating reflective emblems for police cars. Wayne was awarded an Omaha World-Herald Art Scholastic scholarship, and enrolled at Chouinard Advertising Art School in Los Angeles following his graduation from Omaha Technical High School. He switched to night classes and opened a sign painting business, creating all types of signs and displays. One of his customers was an advertising agency, and thus was born his love of the advertising industry. Upon his return to Omaha, Wayne worked briefly as an art director at an advertising firm before starting his own agency, eventually joining forces with Ron Kaplan to found the firm that became Smith, Kaplan Allen & Reynolds. Following the 1997 sale of the firm to a partner group that included daughter Joleen Smith David, Wayne continued to serve as board chair, and then as wise counsel, for his former colleagues. In January of 2019, former OWH publisher and chair of Berkshire Hathaway Media Group Terry Kroeger acquired the agency, which is now Smith Kroeger Marketing Communications.

An avid golfer, Wayne was a member of Happy Hollow Country Club, where he shot a round of 84 at the age of 84, and shot a hole-in-one on the 15th hole at the age of 85. One of his fondest memories was following Jack Nicklaus around the course as he competed at Pebble Beach.

With his wife of 70 years, Jeanette, he raised two children, Craig and Joleen. Wayne and Jeanette traveled the world together, and in later years loved to spend the winter months in Hawaii. They also enjoyed attending Husker football games, dancing, attending live theater performances and spending time with family, especially at their private lake property in LeShara, Nebraska, where they hosted an annual July 4th celebration.

Wayne served on the advisory board of The Salvation Army in Omaha for many years, and with his wife was active in the Tech High Reunion group. He and Jeanette were members of the Junior Jaycees in their youth, and supported a long list of charitable

organizations through the years.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Verna Smith, and his younger sister, Jeanne LaVallee. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jeanette (Leo) Smith, his son, Craig Smith (Rita) and daughter, Joleen Smith David (Mike Collins), grandchildren Aaron Smith, Rhea Smith Black (Adam), Ryan David and Jason David, nieces Diana Lucido and Paulette Carson, nephews Bradley and Mark Harris, and many grand-nieces and nephews, along with members of the extended Jacquie and Jake Forbes family and the LaVallee family.

Longtime Elkhorn residents, Wayne and Jeanette were parishioners of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Once asked by his grandson Jason, "If you could have dinner with any five famous people from history, who would they be?" Wayne replied, "Jesus Christ and the four apostles who wrote the story of his life for the Bible."

We who love him hope his wish has been granted.

VISITATION Wednesday, October 30, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. with a Wake Service at 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home in Elkhorn.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: Thursday, October 31, 10:30 a.m., St. Patrick Catholic Church in Elkhorn, with luncheon immediately following. Private family burial: Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to The Omaha Salvation Army and the Nebraska Humane Society.

Cemetery

Events

Mt. Calvary Cemetery **OCT 30** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd P.O. Box 67, Omaha, NE, US, 68022

OCT 30 **Wake Service** 07:00PM

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd P.O. Box 67, Omaha, NE, US, 68022

OCT 31 **Funeral Service** 10:30AM

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
20400 W. Maple Rd., Elkhorn, NE, US, 68022

Comments



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of H. Wayne Smith.



October 30 at 01:56 PM



“ Barb Ruser and Michael Sesemann purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of H. Wayne Smith.



Barb Ruser and Michael Sesemann - October 29 at 03:32 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of H. Wayne Smith.



October 28 at 06:37 PM



“ I've lost a dear friend and business partner of nearly forty years. We shared good times and bad, with the good times far outweighing the bad. Together we built one heck of an advertising and marketing organization with the help of many, many fine, hard working professionals. Our similar senses of humour produced frequent laughter coming from our adjacent offices, while our serious side, along with our talented staff, made for some truly memorable advertising campaigns. My condolences to Wayne's wife, Jeannette, daughter Joleen, son Craig, and countless grandchildren, nieces and nephews. They all miss him as do I. He was my pal.

Ron Kaplan - October 28 at 11:41 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of H. Wayne Smith.



October 28 at 11:09 AM



“ Jeanette, Joleen and family - I am so sad to read that Wayne has passed away. He was a wonderful man, a great mentor to me, and the star of so many of my fond memories. Kirk and I send love and condolences to you and all the family. Wayne will be forever remembered and missed.

Lynn Phares

Lynn Phares - October 26 at 08:04 AM