



Larry Maynard Smith

December 18, 1933 - February 26, 2014

Larry Maynard Smith was born December 18, 1933 in Omaha, Nebraska to Maynard and Hazel (Bull) Smith. He attended Rose Hill Elementary in Omaha, as well as District 48 school near 180th and Pacific until moving to Elkhorn where he attended school through his first three years of high school. He graduated high school from the Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri in 1951. He spent two years of junior college at Wentworth, before transferring to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln for one semester. Larry ultimately earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska in 1956. As a young boy, Larry was active in baseball and football, and was a member of the very first Elkhorn High School football team in 1949. He also even played on the Midland College baseball team.

Larry was drafted into the United States Army from November 1956 until his honorable discharge in July 1957. Despite his short time in the Army, he achieved the rank of Private, and earned his paratrooper wings as a member of the 101st Airborne Division stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Larry married Patricia Lighter in December 1966 in Elkhorn, Nebraska, and to this union, a son was born, Maynard Lawrence. Larry also became the step dad of Liz and Ann. Larry made his home in Elkhorn throughout his life.

Larry was the owner and operator of Elkhorn Oil Company and also was a commercial pilot. Aviation would define Larry's work and passion. He learned to fly in Fremont, where he first soloed on August 17, 1952. He went on to

earn his Private, Commercial, Instrument, Multi-Engine, Flight Instructor, and Airline Transport Pilot Certificates. He loved being an aircraft owner, and was a flight instructor at Wahoo, Fremont, Millard airports, and most recently as a simulator instructor at the UNO Aviation Institute. He was named the Nebraska Flight Instructor of the Year in 2001, which led to him earning the FAA Central Region Instructor of the Year, and made him a finalist for the National Instructor of the Year. In 2007, the FAA awarded Larry the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" Award, for his 50 plus years of dedication to aviation safety.

Larry was highly active with numerous local civic organizations, as well. He has been a member of DeMolay, Waterloo Lodge No. 102 A.F. & A.M., Luna Chapter 169 Order of the Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Tangier Shrine, where he earned his 50 year pins at both Waterloo Lodge No. 102 and the Scottish Rite, and as a long time proficient member, he was appointed by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska as an Apprentice Deputy Custodian.

Larry will be remembered as a genuine, caring, simple, honest man, who was sincere, trustworthy and respectful of others. He had an affinity for a bowl of ice cream or pecan delights, and could draw a laugh with some of his creative sayings, such as "he looked like a cow at a new gate" if someone were bewildered, or describing a very hot day as "it was 110 degrees in the shade, with no shade". He had no use for wastefulness, and was bothered by people who couldn't count change. Larry would do anything to help someone who asked, and was a man of few words, but always spoke from the heart. He loved his family and cherished being a father and grandfather.

Larry died on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at the Lakeside Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 80 years, 2 months, and 8 days. He was preceded in death by his parents Maynard and Hazel. Larry is survived by his son and daughter-in-law Maynard and Alicia Smith of Elkhorn, and their children Ruby, Lucy, Grace, and Blake, his sister Sharron Gilson of Elkhorn, and his niece and nephews Renee Kellogg, Sean Gilson, and Seth Gilson.

Larry M. Smith, age 80, of Elkhorn, died 2/26/14. Preceded in death by parents Maynard and Hazel. Survived by son and daughter-in-law Maynard and Alicia Smith of Elkhorn, and their children Ruby, Lucy, Grace, and Blake, sister Sharron Gilson, and niece and nephews: Renee Kellogg, Sean Gilson, and Seth Gilson of Des Moines.

Funeral service 11 AM Monday at the funeral home in Elkhorn with military honors by Benson VFW Post 2503. Visitation Sunday 1-6 PM with family receiving friends from 4-6 PM and Masonic services at 6 PM at the funeral home. Inurnment Prospect Hill Cemetery. Memorials to the Omaha Home for Boys or the family to be donated to other charities.

Tribute Wall



“ *Larry Maynard Smith*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Sorry to hear of Larry's passing. I had the great fortune of meeting Larry in October of 2011 when he gave me tailwheel instruction in an Aeronca Champ that I had purchased in Wahoo. I very quickly learned how great a teacher he was, it reminded me of working with Elton Weston from Kearney whom I found out Larry had great respect for also. I had to drive a couple of hours to get to the plane in Wahoo and Larry always made accomodation to meet me when I could make it and the weather was good. After signing me off he called to check up on me after I had brought the Champ home, I still have that voicemail to this day. I flew the Champ to Fremont last year on a business trip, and upon entering the FBO found Larry sitting inside! I am so glad that I took that opportunity to thank him for helping me into the tailwheel world, I knew I had been with a legend even though I was unaware of all of the accolades he had received. May God's Blessings be with Larry's family until we all meet again on streets of gold in Heaven.*

Kent Ingram - March 23, 2014 at 11:17 PM

JJ

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Larry Maynard Smith - May you find comfort in your loving memories, great pictures and in recalling the many talents of Mr. Smith. It was not the Creator's purpose that mankind suffer and die (Romans 5:12). God has promised that a time will come when no one will say "I am sick" (Isaiah 33:24). In the Bible we are promised a resurrection of dear family members and friends that we have lost (John 5:28, 29). I hope you are comforted by Bible promises of a hopeful future (John 17:3).

J Johnson - March 07, 2014 at 04:50 PM

GL

“ Larry will be sorely missed at the UNO Aviation Institute. He was a good instructor and a wonderful person. I met him when I started working at UNO 5 years ago. He was an approachable, friendly and kind person who I enjoyed visiting with. I used to tease him about the ever present toothpick in the corner of his mouth. He would just smile. It was an honor to know him. He was one of the good guys! He quietly made the world a better place. I send sincere sympathy to his family.

Gayle Lokey - March 03, 2014 at 10:26 PM

NP

“ I will always have great memories of Larry. He was my flight instructor while in high school from the very beginning. As a mentor he took me under his wing and went out of his way to see me through my instrument rating. This formed the basis for my later career in the military and in aviation. I have many good memories of him while flying around Wahoo and working at J&D Aircraft. I felt he taught me more than how to fly, he gave me an understanding of how planes worked and why it was important to do things a certain way which proved to be a discipline that would serve me well flying after Sept 2001. Even to this day when I am flying I can hear him saying things to me in my conscience that keep me (and have kept) me on a safe and steady course. I will never forget Larry's love for aviation and skill as an instructor and the fact he loved a good laugh. He was really one who showed how much he cared. He never forgot to call and keep up even years after I had moved out of state. He was more than just an instructor and more than a friend really. He treated me as a son-- certainly will miss him. Always in our hearts, Nicholas

Nicholas & Andreita Proett - March 03, 2014 at 04:47 AM

RM

“ Larry was my brother, friend, and mentor. He raised me as a Master Mason, provided me advice, guidance and wise counsel. Rock solid, a man of integrity and loyalty. He will be missed.

Rick Myers - March 02, 2014 at 03:21 PM

JH

“ *Maynard and family,*

So sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He was such a great man and we enjoyed him so much. May the memories of Larry and his flying stories live within our hearts forever. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow.

Jim and Marsha Hanson - February 26, 2014 at 08:42 PM