



## Gary W. Smith

August 6, 1948 - April 23, 2020

Gary W. Smith, age 71, of Grove, OK, passed away Thursday, April 23, 2020 at his home. He will be remembered as a loving Husband, Father, Brother, Grandpa, and friend to all that knew and loved him.

Gary William Smith was born August 6, 1948 in Dalhart, TX. His parents, James “Jelly” and Betty Smith raised him and his brother, Glen, in the panhandle of West Texas. Gary attended grade school in Cactus, TX and middle school and high school in Dumas, TX where he excelled in sports and was voted “Most Handsome” by his classmates. When he was 18, he married his daughters’ mother, Cheryl Bagwell of Dumas, Texas, and moved to Canyon, Texas to attend West Texas State University and raise his two adoring daughters, Sha Leigh and Kristi. He was a full-time student majoring in psychology and worked for the rail road and at The Pavilion. Upon graduation in 1972, he left Canyon and moved to Durant, OK, where his Uncle Dale provided him job opportunities and his Aunt Myrna nurtured him like her own son. Gary then met the love of his life, Barbara Talbert, and married her on December 6, 1973 in Frederick, OK. Gary and Barbara moved to Grove, OK in 1973 where he started his career in banking and where they raised their beloved son, Cory. After moving to Grove, he went to work for State Bank of Grove for six years before taking the position of President of Grand Lake Bank until 1998. Gary was a natural in the banking business and was blessed to cross paths with his dear friend, Ed Townsend, who brought Gary on as

President of The Grove Local Oklahoma Bank, established in 2005, now Bank of Grand Lake.

Gary loved his family and bank family, as well as his community, and had no plans to retire from the work he enjoyed at Bank of Grand Lake. He loved having a role in helping his community make their home, business and financial dreams come true and enjoyed all the relationships he made with his customers throughout the years. He had the privilege of serving on several Boards of Directors over the years including Grove Lions Club, Grove Chamber of Commerce, Grove Integris Hospital, Har-Ber Village, and Oklahoma Water Resources. He was a member of Delaware Baptist Church.

Gary spent his career in bank management, but what he loved most was his family, his dogs, and spending time in his serene backyard where he and Barbara created a lovely garden and peaceful sanctuary filled with God's beauty.

Survivors include his loving wife, Barbara Smith. Brother, Glen Smith and wife, Liz, of Denton, TX and Nephew, Parker Smith, of Dallas, TX, currently serving in the United States Army Germany and his fiancée, Laura Frazee.

Daughters, Sha Leigh Clark and husband, Scott, of Sand Springs, OK and Kristi Murphey and husband, Alan, of Amarillo, TX. Four grandchildren , Austin Clark and Ashlynn Clark of Dallas and Caitlin Rhodes and Cooper Rhodes of Amarillo. Mother in-law, Helen Talbert of Durant, OK; Brother in-law, William S. Talbert and Margo and sister in- law, Janice Talbert.

Brother in-law and sister in-law, Rodney and Linda French, of Kingston, OK. Nieces Lindsey French and fiancée, Clint Hoffman and darling boy, Cooper Hoffman of Durant and Julie Sullivan and husband, Stacy of McCallister, OK and darling boy, Mason Choate. Nephew Billy Talbert and wife Amy and their sons Billy and Trevor of Moore, OK; Aunt Omega Floyd, many cousins; "special sister", Judy Ball, and beloved fur babies, Mr. Happy and Rebel.

Because of Gary's decision to ask Jesus to be his Lord and Savior we have peace knowing he is in heaven enjoying eternity with Jesus, his beloved son, Cory, and his parents, James and Betty Smith and father-in-law, William P. (Bill) Talbert.

The family suggests memorials be made to: Second Chance Pet Rescue of Grove and Grand Lake; 64301 E 290 Rd, Grove, OK 74344

Memorial service to be announced.

Gary will be laid to rest at Highland Cemetery in Durant, Oklahoma.

# Previous Events

## Graveside

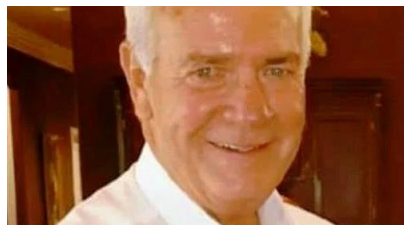
MAY 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

Highland Cemetery  
Durant, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ Nichols Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary W. Smith



Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services - April 28, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ Gary W. Smith

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ My condolences to the family. Gary was a really good man, dedicated to Grove and his vocation. Ed Hazelton



ed hazelton - April 30, 2020 at 06:40 PM

JC

“ All things come to pass and so too the life of this extremely blessed man. I can't help but think he took a cue from one of his very good friends, my father Dr. N.A.Cotner in as he didn't want to outlive his usefulness and grow to be old and decrepit. My regret is he had to face the ravages of a vicious and relentless disease and be separated from his dear Barbara. And Barbara from the bottom of my heart most sincere and deepest sorrow on you loss. And also like my father, Gary is one of the very few individuals of his generation to have made such a positive impact in the town of Grove and touched so many individuals during his time here. It was such a great pleasure and honor to have know him.

---

**Jeff Cotner** - April 30, 2020 at 12:53 AM

RB

“ I was new to Grove in 1984 when I opened an account at Grand Lake Bank. The next month, when I deposited my paycheck, Gary stepped out of his office to greet me and invite me in. He was genuinely interested in knowing everyone who entrusted their assets into his care. He was the first banker to invite me into his office. That didn't happen again until he and Ed opened the Bank of Grove. Both made me feel comfortable to walk into their offices at any time. His infectious smile and eyes told the world, "You're welcome anytime; I care for you."

---

**Rick Bronson** - April 29, 2020 at 11:36 AM

MP

“ My grandmother was very fond of Gary Smith. I would go with her to Grand Lake Bank as a child and remember her joking around with him. I went to school with his son Cory and my heart went out to him when Cory died in our early twenties.

I was lucky to write stories about The Angel of Hope statue and everything a group of people did in order to get the statue brought to Lendonwood Gardens in Grove. Gary was instrumental in helping that reality come to life. Before I moved to Chicago, I was able to share some stories with Gary about how his son touched my life in high school.

To me, Gary represented a class, kindness and openness that as a grown adult I found the newer leadership of Grove to be severely lacking. He represented what a leader truly is and what a leader truly should be. I cannot recall one time where Gary bragged about all of the goodness that he did. He did it the proper way, behind the scenes, never asking for praise for what he helped accomplish. He never plastered himself in the local media asking for praise or attention.

The last time I spoke with him was about 4 years ago after being mistreated by people at Grand Lake. He had very kind words. He is one of the few individuals that I truly respected from my old hometown. His death is a huge loss for the Grand Lake community and I will never forget his kindness, which others should truly take note of. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, family, co-workers and friends. I take solace in knowing that he is now with his son. He was a good man.

---

**Mary Pryor** - April 27, 2020 at 12:33 AM

LL

“ Larry Lewis purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Gary W. Smith.



---

Larry Lewis - April 24, 2020 at 01:11 PM

FM

“ We were out boating with them and picnic by Patricia Island. Gary was pulling Feryl behind boat on a tube. When Gary turned the corner it dumped Feryl and he lost his swimsuit. Gary and Feryl laughed so hard they never found swimsuit but Barbara loaned him her lavender nylon short shorts and we went to a restaurant on the lake to eat where Gary along with the rest of us laughed until we hurt. I worked at Grand Lake Bank for him for several years and or boys went to school together. Barbara my wonderful friend Love you so much!! Love and prayers for you and your family goes without saying!!❤️ I Can Only Imagine what it was like when Gary was welcomed into Heaven by Christ Himself and his loving family that awaited him



---

Feryl and Rhonda Malone - April 23, 2020 at 06:33 PM

EH

I met Gary in the early 70s when we were both taking night banking courses in Joplin. While having an after class COFFEE at Sambos we discovered we had a friend in common from Dumas, his old baseball batterymate Jessie. Our paths were later entwined when his boss, Bud Buzzard bought the bank in Miami where I worked. It was great until Bud tragically was killed in a plane crash and the aftermath was hard on all of us but especially to Gary, who was so dedicated to Grove. We visited often on the phone after that but rarely in person, which I regret. My loss. Personable, friendly he had the ability to make you feel special in his presence. My condolences to the family; the world lost a really good man. Ed Hazelton

---

ed hazelton - April 30, 2020 at 06:33 PM

BS

❤️❤️🥰 *he was very fond of you Ed. Me too.,,*

**barbara smith** - May 02, 2020 at 12:56 AM