



James William Smith

June 11, 1940 - February 28, 2020

James William Smith

Jim was born June 11, 1940 to Roy “Stub” and Dorothea “Dot” Newman Smith in Fort Jones. He was the oldest of four boys. He passed away on February 28, 2020 in Medford, Oregon.

Jim attended local schools and was active in FFA. He took an early interest in carpentry, building, welding, and tinkering with all things that needed to be built or re-built. He was an active outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and exploring the many lakes and trails of The Russian and Marble Mountain Wilderness and surrounding areas. He really enjoyed being a big brother to his siblings.

Jim worked many jobs as a youth including carpentry and gold mining among others. His first job was with Eastlick Mills in Sawyer’s Bar.

Jim entered the U.S. Army in March of 1958. He completed basic training with the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was then posted with the 1st Cavalry at Fort Hood, Texas. Not being a fan of the heat and pesky chiggers, he changed course and spent the next 3 years with the 101st Airborne stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He enjoyed the Kentucky and Tennessee areas, but not jumping out of planes so much. During this time, he also travelled to the Middle East with stops in Libya, Israel and Turkey where

he participated in NATO warfare exercises.

After leaving the service, Jim returned home to employment in the logging industry. He also worked construction for Leo Davis, building the bridges at Thompkins and Independence Creeks. In 1966 he joined the California Division of Highways (CalTrans). He was a mechanic, equipment operator, and maintenance worker retiring in 1996 after 30 years.

Jim enjoyed the freedom of an active retirement. He spent countless hours improving his "camp" at Carrville in Trinity County. He was a good neighbor, respected for his helpfulness and good deeds. Jim also spent time as a Scoutmaster and volunteer fireman during the 60 years he lived in Greenview.

He was especially proud to have participated as Commander of the American Legion Perry Harris Post 260. Along with his fellow veterans, Jim officiated countless Memorial Day activities and was honored to provide military graveside services throughout Scott Valley.

Jim never married. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his brothers Ed (Marlene) of Gilbert AZ, Tom (Barbara) and Mike (Lavina) of Scott Valley and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He also leaves his longtime friend and companion, Cherin Gripp of Greenview and her children and grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held at 2PM Friday March 6, 2020 in the Veteran's Section of the Fort Jones Cemetery.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Fort Jones Cemetery

Eastside Road

Fort Jones, CA 96032