



## Ralph Louis Smith

July 6, 1927 - August 27, 2012

Ralph Louis Smith, 85 year old Yreka resident, passed away on August 27, 2012. Ralph was born July 6, 1927 to Ralph Carl and Constance Fay Smith in San Diego, California. Ralph served with the United States Navy. After his return to San Diego he married Dixie Lee Hindman in 1949. They had four children, Scott, Curt, Ralph and Krista. Ralph married Lois Wood in 1988 in San Diego. They added her children, Roger and Lois to the family. He was owner/operator of 'Smith Shade and Linoleum' in San Diego for over thirty years. Ralph enjoyed riding quads and camping in the desert with his family. He enjoyed gardening and was an avid collector of antique insulators, rocks, minerals, and shells. Scuba diving was something he also enjoyed, mostly in Mexico and San Diego. If there was a river to cross, a mountain to climb, it was Ralph who led the way, or showed us how to push through our fears to find our own strength. It was Ralph who pointed out the stars of Orion, a beautiful sunset, a family of turkeys on the hill, and always his praise for food and the cook. Whether riding on the back of a whale in Baja, or paddling a boat across a lake at sunset, Ralph was in his element outdoors and with his family.

He is loved and survived by his wife, Lois Smith of Yreka; his children, Scott and Irene Smith of Three Rivers, CA, Curt and Jan Smith of Helena, Montana, Ralph and Kristie of Lakeside, CA, and Krista and Kevin Neville of Santee, CA, Lois and Bill Weddle of Yreka, CA Roger and June Wood of Spring Valley, CA; his sister and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Don Kissel of Vernal, Utah; and

his thirteen grandchildren.

Ralph's legacy is this: Work hard, share what you know and have with others, stop to see the beauty in all things, and paddle hard as if everything you need, and everyone you love is whistling and cheering you home. Ralph's final journey around the lake was his sunrise. In moments of beauty his family and friends will remember Ralph for his love and encouragement, showing us that we can do just about anything.