



Wilbur A. Smith

September 7, 1924 - December 2, 2018

Wilbur Smith, a native of southwest Pennsylvania, was a curious man and claimed to have read every book in his high school library. Reading and learning were his passion and as an adult he could intelligently discuss almost any subject with most people. His other hobbies included rabbit hunting, doing beautiful woodwork, and volunteering for his church. He was a 20 year veteran of the USAF, initially as a radio operator, then as a boom operator for a refueling wing in SAC. After retirement from the Air Force, Wilbur carried mail on the Hilltop, where he knew all his customers. He was also active at Walnut Hill United Methodist Church, helping and writing a column for the church newsletter and managing the cemetery. He was one of the original volunteers at the UM Free Store in its three locations, currently on the corner of Parsons and Whittier. He was there five days per week four hours per day until he was 92 years old, greeting donors and taking in their donations at the back of the store. He was well known and loved on the south side of Columbus as "Mr. Wilbur". He is pre-deceased by his beloved wife of 50 years, Irene, and daughter Peggy Shilling. He is survived by daughters Shirley Elaine Keckley and Susan Eisner (Bill), eight grand and eight great grandchildren. Friends may call at O. R. WOODYARD CO. CHAPEL, 1346 S. High St., Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 2 to 5 pm. Additional visitation will be held at Walnut Hill United Methodist Church, 975 Rathmell Rd., Monday, December 10, 2018 from 10 am until time of service at 11 am. The Reverends Jeffrey Julien and John Edgar officiating. Interment with Military Honors at Walnut Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the United Methodist Church For All People or its Free Store, 946 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43206. The family greatly appreciates the kind and loving care of the staff of Westminster-Thurber during Wilbur's final years. Share memories at The O. R. Woodyard Funeral Home

Cemetery

Walnut Hill Cemetery
915 Rathmell Rd
Columbus, OH, 43207

Events

DEC 10 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Walnut Hill United Methodist Church
975 Rathmell Rd., Columbus, OH, US, 43207

DEC 10 Funeral Service 11:00AM

Walnut Hill United Methodist Church
975 Rathmell Rd., Columbus, OH, US, 43207

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



The O. R. Woodyard Funeral Home - December 09, 2018 at 10:51 AM



“ 46 files added to the album LifeTributes



The O. R. Woodyard Funeral Home - December 09, 2018 at 09:46 AM



“ Shirley: Your Dad sounded like a wonderful person. Giving time to help others, and doing God work. He obviously lived his life that made you and your family proud of the man he was. I am sorry for your loss. Thinking of you at this sad time for your family: Sandy Hester Boden

Sandra Boden - December 08, 2018 at 11:05 PM



“ Sending love and hugs to all of you. I loved coming over to the Smiths after church on Sundays. I remember Sue and I making Chefboyardee pizza...Wilbur and Irene always made me feel like one of the family! Deb Helber

Deb Helber - December 08, 2018 at 02:50 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Wilbur A. Smith.





“ My memories of Uncle Wib are of family reunions and scooping ice cream for all the kids, the softball and volleyball games, pitching horseshoes, just enjoying every moment of it. Visits to Grandma's house again meant all of us getting together, hearing all the stories and our “discussions” of Ohio State football. Indelible memories of my youth



R Dean Raleigh - December 05, 2018 at 10:13 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers...

While often used inappropriately, thoughts and prayers are in order for our family at this time. Grandpa Wilbur Smith passed yesterday and his services will be this weekend in Columbus. Mom and I will attend.

Wilbur was truly a family heirloom, one of a vanishing breed of our WW II veterans. He lived a simple, good life after retirement from the US Air Force and the US Postal Service. I hold fond memories of discussions he and I had on many topics, but especially on our mutual respect and love for President Harry Truman, for the concepts of patriotism and duty, and for Subarus. I loved his hopelessly complex directions for getting from A to B in a car. Reminds me of the Irish story of the man giving directions by saying "see that big red barn up there on the right? Pay it no mind." I also recall Wilbur's many years of volunteer service to the Free Store after his retirement. Wilbur walked in Christ's path and demonstrated Christ's love for us by his own example and actions. May he rest in peace with his beloved wife, Irene.

I would like to reflect a moment on the significance of family in this time of loss. My own Papaw, M.F. Fortner, was fond of saying: "A man's treasure on this Earth is his family." I have no achievement and no pride greater than our nuclear family. I swell with joy when I think of how well all four of you have adapted and adjusted in raising your own families. One of my favorite hymns from the Disciples of Christ is "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love." Thank each of you for the love you have shown to each other and to your children and to us. No man can ask for more than to see his children grow up and build their own houses of love. May this tradition continue forever and ever...

- RDF

