



## Richard Earl Smith

November 6, 1941 - November 22, 2024

Richard "Dick" Earl Smith, 83, of Mooresville, NC, formerly of Charlotte, NC, went to be with the Lord, on Friday, November 22, 2024. He was born November 6, 1941, to the late Howard Bryant Smith and Clara Selby Smith.

He proudly served his country in the US Army where he earned the rank of Captain. He was stationed at the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, PA.

Dick earned his PhD at Virginia Tech. He had a very accomplished career as a Metallurgical Engineer and was still working on special projects at the time of his passing. He received a very special honor in 2010 in recognition of his outstanding and distinguished contributions to enhance the advancement of science, technology, and application of welding from the American Welding Society. He was selected for an award as Fellow on November 1, 2010, in Atlanta, GA. He was essential in designs that are now utilized at nuclear power plants and has traveled the world sharing his knowledge and expertise.

Dick and his wife, Judy, are dedicated members of Trinity Baptist Church in Mooresville.

It was there, that they loved to serve and worship our incredible Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dick was very outgoing. He never knew a stranger. He was the kind of man

you just wanted to know and could not help but love. He loved family get togethers and sharing delicious home cooked meals. In fact, he loved food anywhere!! He was a delight to cook for as he was the kind of person that loved ANYTHING you fixed. Dick was the "ROCK" of our family and guided us all through good times and bad. Family was his priority.

In his younger days, he was an avid fisherman. He had a real love for playing golf. He was also a fantastic ping-pong player and enjoyed serious challenges with other avid players.

Dick will forever be remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father, PawPaw, brother, uncle, and a very special friend.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Howard B. Smith, Jr., also known as "Buck".

Dick leaves a lasting legacy to be cherished by his survivors, loving wife of 60 years,

Judy Hobbs Smith; daughters, Stephanie Arnette, of Mooresville, and Rebecca Keever and husband, Mark, of Mooresville; grandchildren, Sarah Dunagan and husband, Galen, of Mooresville, Savannah Rich and husband, Tyler of Jonesborough, TN, Gavin Arnette of Charlotte, Ashlyn Mickley of Rochester, NY, and a host of nieces, nephews, and special friends.

A private service for the Celebration of Dick's Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Trinity Baptist Church, for the new building fund, PO Box 3365, Mooresville, NC 28117.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home and Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Smith

family.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory**

494 E. Plaza Drive  
Mooresville, NC 28115

# Tribute Wall

NC

“ Dick was friend with a giant intellect and a kind soul. It was a joy to be in his company. Between the many laughs he always left me feeling more knowledgeable about our shared interests in welding. He was one of those people that when you shook his hand it felt like you gained an extra IQ point. Condolences to his family. Rest in peace.

Neal Chapman - December 20, 2024 at 11:32 AM

SB

“ 3 files added to the album Dicks at EPRI



Stacey Burnett - November 27, 2024 at 10:05 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Earl Smith.



November 26, 2024 at 12:20 PM

SO

“ Dick Smith was one of the first people I met after joining EPRI oh so many years ago. Dick was always kind and encouraging. RIP Dick.

Susan J Otto-Rodgers - November 26, 2024 at 11:43 AM

PS

“ *betty,an paul, were choir member's with Dick at Trinity baptist , and many times my wife and dick would get the wrong choir books #22 &#23 mixed up and Dick would always say , Betty #22, and soon it would be that they called each other #22 or #23 . What Dick meant to us was very precious man of GOD and friend beyond compare !! What a loss to his dear family and friends . Love Ya , Betty & Paul Spain*

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**paul spain** - November 26, 2024 at 11:12 AM

SF

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Dick during an EPRI project that was being conducted at Battelle in Columbus OH. back in 1979. I was a very young engineer on this project, and he convinced me to join his team at EPRI in Charlotte, NC. He was my friend, mentor, leader, spiritual consultant and so much more. He was considered an uncle to my kids and a dear family friend. He and Judy, along with his family were the best. I have many stories of his attempts to teach me how to golf, going fishing, discussions on family, faith and following God's plan. We went on lunch trips to pick out cars, travelled to all parts together and shared so much together. I would not be the engineer nor the person that I am today, if not for Dick. There are so many others who would probably say the same - he had a wonderful way of being a teacher and you didn't realize you were part of his lesson plan until sometime later. A few phrases that will live with me forever from Dick:

- Patience is a virtue. (I found this to be true so many times)
- Personal power is so much more important than position power. (A business lesson to be remembered).
- and - the most important:
  - Put your life and problems in the hands of our Lord. He will see you through anything. (very true).

Mostly, I will always remember Dick as being the kindest and most thoughtful person I have known. He was so proud of his family and always loved to talk about them. He really taught me how family is the center of your life and everything else is replaceable.

He will be missed by so many, and my family is deeply saddened by his passing. Our hearts and prayers go out to Judy, Stephanie, Rebecca and all of his family members. Go forth knowing that Dick's legacy continues in the hearts of all of those he touched along the way.

Shane

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Shane Findlan - November 26, 2024 at 09:29 AM




“ *Richard was one of the sweetest people that I had ever met. I enjoyed joking with him and looked forward to seeing his smile everyday. He will truly be missed But HEAVEN Gained a Angel a precious Angel  
RIP MR DICK*



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**Lisa Patterson** - November 25, 2024 at 10:15 PM

 Leila  
Hobbs

“ *Leila Hobbs lit a candle in memory of Richard Earl Smith*



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**Leila Hobbs** - November 25, 2024 at 09:29 PM

AH

“ *Mr. Smith was an amazing man. I met him and Mrs. Smith after becoming friends with their oldest daughter Rebecca in high school. He kept us on our toes always a step ahead. Provided wise advice that although took years to accept made a lot more sense as I got older. He will be missed by many. Hugs and love to the family. Prayers for healing.*

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**Anne Harrelson** - November 25, 2024 at 07:17 PM

PW

“ Praying for your family and so sorry for your huge loss. I worked with Dick in the early days of J. A. Jones Applied Research. He was always so kind and welcoming to anyone whether you spoke "welding" or not! What was most important to him and he expressed was his love of family and love of His Savior. It was so nice to meet someone who wasn't afraid to share from the heart. Kindest regards, *Patty Wade*

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**Patty Wade** - November 25, 2024 at 04:26 PM

NM

“ *Smith Family – Losing your Husband, Father, and Grandfather is a huge void, and I am sincerely sorry for your loss. But I hope you take some solace in knowing that the void is so large because he was such a great man and large part of so many lives. He touched and guided the trajectory of so many people during his life and I promise we are sharing your loss as well.*

*I got the distinct privilege to hear about each and every one of you while working with Dick. I can say without any doubt that he was so very proud of all of you and loved each of you without measure. That is no surprise to you all ... because that's who Dick was. He was kind, ready to make a joke, always there when you needed someone and always willing to give words of encouragement. That's not to say he was easy on people and expectations, but he conveyed those the right way. His contribution to our industry is not measurable but he equally contributed to lives of everyone around him. Dick was my mentor, and I am so very grateful I was given the opportunity to work with him but also to call him my friend. I will miss our discussions about wine, football, life, and whatever the topic of the day was.*

*I am truly a better husband, father, engineer, and overall human being for knowing your Husband, Father, and Grandfather. Thank you for sharing Dick with all of us and he will be missed!*

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**Nick Mohr** - November 25, 2024 at 03:52 PM

BB

“ *I met Dick many years ago when he was with EPRI in Charlotte and I was a utility Engineer. Our careers intersected many times over the following years. Dick was a great sharing man who helped everyone he interacted with. He will be missed by many.*

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**Bob Brown** - November 25, 2024 at 02:06 PM

SB

“ Dick was not only a mentor, colleague, and friend, but also a constant source of kindness and warmth. For so many years, his presence was a reassuring face, making everyone feel welcome. I will miss him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dick's family during this difficult time. Rest in peace, Dick. Your legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew you.

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**Stacey Burnett** - November 25, 2024 at 01:20 PM

JL

“ Condolences to the Smith Family. Dick was a kind and genuine man, whose technical prowess and compassion for humans allowed him to be the great leader he was. I am forever grateful for my time with him as he taught me so much about engineering and the industry in such a short amount of time. Rest in Peace!

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**JP Lacy** - November 25, 2024 at 12:05 PM

HC

“ I only worked with Dick on one project for a short time, but made developed a great friendship. I knew nothing about welding, but he never talked down to me, always explained heavy technical issues with simplicity. This takes a great mind. I will always remember him. I know that he had a relationship with God, and that comforts us in our loss.

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**Helen Cothron** - November 25, 2024 at 10:17 AM

DS

“*Dr. Smith was truly a great friend and mentor. We met before my time at SI when he was brought in as a third party consultant on a rotor weld repair we were performing. Once he realized we had our technical ducks in a row, we had many jovial discussions about faith, family and politics. That led eventually to me throwing my hat in the consulting ring under the mentorship of Dick. We had a great time putting together a series of webinars highlighting welding in the industry. He truly elevated my technical knowledge and my technical writing skills. It was such a pleasure to learn from and work alongside such a pioneer in the industry. He will be missed.*

*He always held his family in high regard. My heart aches for them during this time. Prayers for the family such that the grieving be as painless as possible.*

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**David Segletes** - November 25, 2024 at 09:54 AM