



Ernest Byron Smith

December 8, 1932 - March 1, 2020

Ernest B. Smith, 87 of St. Augustine, passed away on March 1, 2020 at Samantha Wilson Care Center. He was born in Lynn, Massachusetts on December 8, 1932, where he grew up.

Ernest joined the U. S. Air Force in 1951, never realizing he would become a world traveler and live in many countries with his wife and three children. His first assignment was in Wyoming and then to Paris, France where he met his wife, Maria Ettinger (nickname Inge) and married in 1955. From Paris the couple traveled to Kansas, Spain, Massachusetts, Turkey, Spain, Belgium, California, Germany, Spain, and Washington D.C. His last assignment was in Germany, where he retired. Their children, Clark, Jenny and Greg had the opportunity to travel to many European countries and experience their culture which they greatly benefitted from. He retired after 26 years in the U.S. Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant.

Ernest then became a Department of the Army civilian employee where he worked in Long Island, New York. He then went to Schwetzingen, Germany and worked as a U.S. Army Postal Operations Officer. There were many TDYs where he travelled to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He and his wife also took advantage of living in Europe and travelled to almost every country and enjoyed it very much.

Ernest retired after 46 years of total service and he and his wife settled in St.

Augustine, Florida in 1998, where they enjoyed many visits from children and grandchildren over the years.

Ernest was always dedicated to his work and his family. He was great attribute to society and a man to be very proud of.

He is survived by, his spouse, Maria M. Smith; daughter, Virginia D. Fraley; son in law, John R. Fraley; son, Gregory D. Smith; daughter in law, Beate Smith; grandson, John C. Fraley; granddaughter, Kristen M. Fraley, granddaughter, Janine D. Smith; grandson, Julian D. Smith.

A memorial service will be held at 4:15 on Friday, March 6, 2020 at St. Johns Family Funeral home. A gathering of family and friends will precede the service from 3:00-4:15.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a donation to a hospice of your choice.

St. John's Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 3:00 AM - 4:15 AM (ET)

ST JOHNS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
385 State Rd 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Memorial Service

MAR 6. 4:15 AM - 5:15 AM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home
385 SR 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 824-1625
<https://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ernest Byron Smith*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - March 05, 2020 at 10:51 AM

JW

“ *Inge,
Ernie was one of the nicest men I ever knew. He visited me in the hospital when I was new to St. Augustine and new to NARFE. So thoughtful. Nice to everyone. You did good and found a good man. I hope you have many beautiful memories of your time together. I hope you have many friends and family to support you during this difficult time. Please remember Ernie when he was well and vibrant. Love and prayers for you, Ing.
Jane Willoughby*

Jane Willoughby - March 05, 2020 at 06:53 PM

RA

“ *Ray and Julie Aguilera purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ernest Byron Smith.*



Ray and Julie Aguilera - March 05, 2020 at 04:14 PM

PB

“ Inge, so sorry to hear of Ernie's passing. Annette and I send condolences to you and the family. We will miss seeing Ernie's smile at the AFPCA Reunions. Hope you can keep in touch and maybe continue lending your support to the AFPCA Scholarship Program. Stay strong and take solace in the many long years you and Ernie had together. Will keep you in our prayers. Purcell & Annette Brown

Purcell Brown - March 05, 2020 at 09:55 AM

RB

“ As current President of the Air Force Postal & Courier Association I want to send our deepest condolences to Inga and family of Ernie. He was a mentor to me and a Past President of our group. Our thoughts and prayers to all.

Randall Ward Brown - March 04, 2020 at 04:41 PM

TK

“ Our deepest condolences to Inge and family. Ernie was a great guy and will be missed by all who knew him.

Terry and Elizabeth Kelley

Terry Kelley - March 04, 2020 at 12:17 PM

GC

“ It's very sad that we have to experience times such as these, but Debbie and I are extremely thankful for the relationship we've been able to have with Ernie.

As the period of grief gives way to happier times, may God grant each of us the good fortune of allowing us to remember the good and happy times we shared.

Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with you Inga and the family.

We hope in the coming months you'll allow us to be a source of strength for you as you begin on the path God has prepared for you.

With much love,

George and Debbie

George Caro - March 04, 2020 at 09:44 AM

JF

So sorry to hear of Ernie's passing. Jan and I were endeared of Ernie. As a Past President Ernie taught me many things, mostly humility. His mentorship of new office holders will not be forgotten. Best Wishes, Jim & Jan Faulkner

Jim Faulkner - March 05, 2020 at 02:28 PM