



## Mr. Nelson Eugene Smith

March 1, 1932 - March 25, 2016

Nelson Eugene Smith, passed away in Tallahassee, Florida on March 25, 2016. He was born on March 1, 1932, in Carrabelle, Florida to William and Leona Lovett Smith who preceded him in death. Because Nelson lost both parents during his early childhood, Uncle Gaither LeRoy Smith and Lida Bell Mathis Smith took him into their home where they raised him with their own children. Also preceding him in death is his wife, Peggy Hewitt Smith; parents, Gaither and Lida Smith; and two brothers, George Edward Smith and Howard Curry, Sr. Nelson is survived by his two daughters, Debra Smith (Scott) Robertson of Leicester, NC and Jeanette Smith Boutwell of Asheville, NC; three grandchildren, Jennifer Scott Tarske; Kathleen "Suzie" Boutwell George; and Daniel Edward Scott. He also has three great-grandchildren, Brandon George, Thadeus Scott, and Tristan Scott. There are also so many nephews and nieces, whom he dearly loved.

As a young man, Nelson attended Lively Vocational Technical School, providing him with the proficiency skills as a master electrician, machinist, and HVAC expert. While Nelson worked at the Crate Mill, he served in the Army National Guard from 1948 to 1956. In the 1960s, he worked under a NASA grant for Florida State University (FSU) where he invented the dirt sampler. These jobs eventually gave way to his years of working with Olin in St. Marks and the Florida Department of Transportation where he retired in the 1990s.

Nelson loved caring for the maintenance needs of the church and affectionately acquired the name of “Candy Man” and “Tootsie Roll Man” as he always had a pocket of small tootsie rolls to pass out to all of the children. He enjoyed socializing during church dinners, helping with holiday plays, and serving the Lord in any way that he could. Nelson served as a Sunday school teacher as a young man and could easily quote scriptures from memory. One of his greatest joys was teaching his daughters and grandchildren how to hunt and fish. In fact, he always recruited children in the church to enroll in the hunter’s education course as a way to teach them hunting and survival skills.

About a month prior to his passing, Nelson received a dream from the Lord in which he was shown all of heaven. It was such a beautiful sight. We know that the Lord was preparing him for his inevitable journey into our loving Father’s arms. So, family and friends can take peace from knowing our father and grandfather was ready to leap into the arms of our Lord Jesus.

We would like to give thanks to Kathleen "Suzie" and her husband, David George, for taking such loving care of our father and grandfather following Peggy’s death in 2009. Peepaw always jokingly said that he “had to do what the boss said.” Daddy, Peepaw, Granddaddy, this is only until we see you again in heaven.

Visitation is Thursday, March 31, 2016, from 12:00 until 1:00 PM, at Abbey Funeral Home, with the funeral service beginning at 1:00 PM. Interment will follow at Tallahassee Memory Gardens, with Pastor Phillip Kirkland officiating. Memorial donations may be made to your favorite charity. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.abbeyfh.com](http://www.abbeyfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 31. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home  
4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
abbeyfh@comcast.net

## Service

MAR 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home  
4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
abbeyfh@comcast.net

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lea Scott - March 30, 2016 at 05:55 PM

DS

“ Debbie and family. Your dad was a wonderful man of God. We have dear memories of him at Springfield. Our sympathies and love to you

Debi and George Scheiferstein and family  
Monticello, Fl

Debi Scheiferstein - March 30, 2016 at 08:15 AM

LS

“ What an incredible man you were and a true example of the importance of family. See again one day. Love-Daniel, Lea, Thad, and Tristan ♡♡♡



Lea Scott - March 30, 2016 at 05:53 AM

SU

“ *Suzie sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Nelson Eugene Smith*



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**suzie** - March 29, 2016 at 10:22 PM

LS

“ *What an incredible man you were and a true example of the importance of family! We will miss u Granddaddy and see again one day*♥♥♥♥ *Love-Daniel, Lea, Thad, and Tristan*



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**Lea Scott** - March 29, 2016 at 09:55 PM

DR

“Daddy, always loved to have the family together. When Jennifer was little, he always wanted to take her into town to get her some pie to eat. So, we would ride with him and he would ask her what she would want to eat. He would buy her chocolate pie, and then give her half of his pie. Daddy loved Suzie and enjoyed picking at her when she was little and helping her learn her alphabet. I remember hearing him tell the story once how Suzie caught on to what he was doing by jumping around the alphabet and asking, "Now, what is this letter?" Finally, Suzie said, "Peepaw, I know what that letter is, now you tell me!" As the kids grew up, he always kept checking on them to make sure they were doing well. He loved all of his grandkids.

*But, I can honestly say that he dearly loved Jeanette and was proud of her. He loved to watch her shoot guns. I remember when we were little kids, Mama, Daddy, and Granny took us fishing to Coe's Landing at Lake Talquin pretty frequently. At Coe's Landing, we could sit on the docks to fish. Jeanette is 18 months younger than me, so she had not gotten the hang of putting the worm on her fish hook quite yet. I can hear daddy saying to her, "Nette, let me help you put that worm on the hook and then you can throw it back out." Even as a child, Jeanette has always been beautiful. He was so proud of her. Jeanette could always make daddy laugh until he nearly busted a gut! Jeanette was the comedian and he always loved hearing her tell stories.*

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**Debra Smith Robertson** - March 29, 2016 at 09:43 PM

“Daddy always loved Christmas. In fact, he would start around October asking me if I needed any pecans to back fruitcakes and other wonderful things. Then he would begin asking when I would put up the Christmas tree and decorations. He was a huge kid at Christmas. He had Peggy and me always cooking in the kitchen. The main thing he always requested was for me to make him fudge candy.

He loved to socialize at church. Whenever we had "dinner on the grounds" he loved to serve food and before anyone was finished eating their first plate, he would begin yelling, "Now, y'all come. There's plenty more to eat." Then he would sit down to eat after he was satisfied that everyone had at least their second plate of food. He always asked me to fix an extra plate of food so he could take it to his neighbors, Archie and Sue.

Daddy would give the shirt off his back to you if you ever needed it. He never failed to check in on Sue and Archie, especially after Archie passed on to glory, to see if they needed any food. Sue would tell him what she would need. Daddy always ran to Wal-Mart to pick up some groceries for her, then deliver them to her home.

Daddy loved watching Daniel play football for Jefferson County High School. He was so proud of his grandson. During the Jefferson-Hamilton County game, Daniel caused Hamilton County's quarterback to fumble the ball. Daniel pick the ball up. I have never seen anyone yell and scream at a boy saying, "Run son! Run son!" When Daniel scored the touchdown, I thought Daddy was going to fall off the bleachers yelling and screaming, "That's my grandson!"

One of my favorite stories about daddy was the time he and I went fishing in Izelle Storie's fish pond. The bass was bedding. I had caught a tiny bream, so I decided to put in on my hook as bait. The next thing I knew I caught a huge wide-mouth bass that weighed 7 lbs 8 ozs. He was so proud of that fish. Whenever he told people about that fish that I caught, somehow it grew from its original

*weight to 12 pounds, then 16 pounds and up to 27 pounds. Now that was a whopping fish story, and I didn't tell it!!!!!!*

*Daddy, I loved the times we spent together fishing and hunting. I miss our football games and picking on each other's teams. I miss the times we laughed. I can hear you laughing right now, saying, "Did you see that?!" I will miss the times we shared a cup of coffee and the holidays with you. But, as long as I have these wonderful memories, you will forever remain in my heart. I will see you again one day in heaven. I have no doubt that right now you and Jack Kirkland are giving each other a hard time. I know Peggy, Granny, Granddaddy, Aunt Sarah, Uncle Howard, and Uncle Ed met you at the gates to welcome you home. I will miss you, but this is not goodbye forever. I love you dearly, Debbie*

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**Debra Smith Robertson** - March 29, 2016 at 09:29 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Debra Smith Robertson** - March 29, 2016 at 09:11 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Debbie Smith Robertson** - March 29, 2016 at 08:56 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Debbie Smith Robertson** - March 29, 2016 at 08:36 PM

DR

“ *Debbie Smith Robertson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Nelson Eugene Smith*



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**Debbie Smith Robertson** - March 29, 2016 at 08:31 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Debbie Smith Robertson** - March 29, 2016 at 08:15 PM

JT

“ *Jennifer Tarske purchased the Treasured Lilies S pray for the family of Mr. Nelson Eugene Smith.*



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**Jennifer Tarske** - March 29, 2016 at 02:17 AM