



Laurence Edward Smith

December 28, 1939 - September 6, 2008

Mr. Laurence Edward “Ed” Smith

Mr. Ed Smith, 68 of Newnan, GA passed away Saturday September 6, 2008 at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC due to complications resulting from a heart transplant.

He was born in Toccoa, GA on December 28, 1939 to the late Homer and Ruby Smith. After the death of his parents, he was raised by his Aunt and Uncle, the late Myrtie and Dean Hayes of Calhoun, GA.

Ed started his dedication to service by becoming an Eagle Scout and serving in the United States Coast Guard. He was a graduate of Calhoun High School and the University of Georgia. He also attended the University of Georgia Law School.

Surviving are his wife of forty six years, the former Myra Sherard; his two sons, Dean Edward, and his wife Janice of Newnan, GA; David Bryan and his wife Allison of Louisville, KY. ; his four grandchildren: Caitlin, Bronson, Bryan, and Ansley.

Ed was a member of the First Baptist Church of Newnan, GA and he was a past member of the First Baptist Church of Marietta, GA where he served as

deacon. Ed was also a member and past President of the Golden K Kiwanis Club of Newnan.

Ed started his career with the Better Business Bureau in 1967. Ed served as President and CEO of the Atlanta Better Business Bureau from 1977 until his retirement in 2002. During his career with the Better Business Bureau, Ed served in various leadership positions within the national Council of Better Business Bureaus organization. He served on the Board of Directors for the Council of Better Business Bureaus in varying intervals beginning in 1984 and continuing until his retirement.

Ed received the Meritorious Service Award from the Bureau Operations Committee of the Council of Better Business Bureaus for exceptional service in 1995. He was a member of the Better Business Bureau's 25 Year Club and was inducted into the Better Business Bureau Hall of Fame in 2005.

Throughout his life, Ed was active in the community, serving on the Board of Directors for the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Atlanta from 1985 to 1994 and the Kiwanis Club of Atlanta.

Other survivors are Ed's Sister Doris Carter of Jasper, GA and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Friday, September 12th at McKoon Funeral Home in Newnan, GA from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, September 13th at the First Baptist Church of Newnan, GA by Rev. Jimmy Patterson and Rev. L.C. Lane. Following the memorial service, burial will be at Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, GA.

Ed enjoyed traveling, his grandchildren and University of Georgia Football.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the scholarship funds at the First Baptist Church of Newnan.

Cemetery Details

Westview Cemetery

1680 Westview Drive SW
Atlanta, GA 30310

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

SEP 13. 10:30 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan
15 West Washington St
Newnan, GA 30264

Tribute Wall

NU

“*Myra and Family I join in your sadness at the loss of Ed or as we often formally called him in law school without his approval "L.E." I also join in what I know is your deep gratitude to God for his fully engaged life which impacted so many who became friends with him over the years and decades. Since we shared the same home county and gene pool Ed shared with me many insightful observations over the years about our people's music, language, politics, and sometimes unexplainable behavior. I shall always cherish his wry observations about human nature. I don't have to tell you that his steadfast love of his family was the foundation of his life and must now be a source of strength and consolation for you in these hard days.*

Norman Underwood - September 12, 2008 at 01:35 PM

DS

“*Myra, Fred and I were so sorry to hear about your loss. I occasionally look at some of the photos from the first year of law school. We were so young and we had a wonderful life ahead of us. From all of the comments, I can tell Ed had a life well lived. You and your family are in our thoughts and we wish you the best . Drucilla Stowers*

Drucilla Stowers - September 12, 2008 at 10:52 AM

HP

“*Ed. Was always there to take your call and hear you out. He could listen or give you very sound advise. He was a friend first and a co-worker second. He will be missed.*

Harold Palmer - September 12, 2008 at 08:39 AM

MH

“ Myra & family, Bob & I so loved having you as neighbors in Wendwood. We were so sorry to read of Ed's death and your loss. You have our love and prayers. We are still in the neighborhood and would love to see you. Blessings and love, Molly & Bob

Moly Hintz - September 11, 2008 at 03:27 PM

GP

“ Ed was a great friend and mentor to me and to so many others. His sense of humor and his sense of "right" were two of his greatest assets. To say he will be missed is an understatement, but he has left a wonderful legacy.

Ginny Phillippi - September 11, 2008 at 09:16 AM

RH

“ My sincere sympathy to Ed's entire family and those who worked closely with Ed. I came into the BBB System as a "Northerner" taking over from a long time friend of Ed's, Bob Hampton. Ed took me under his wing and calmed me down with his philosophy about life and work in the "Bureau System". He always remembered me, even though I was just a new BBB CEO. I will always remember Ed for his style, grace, and wit. Rest in Peace.

Ran Hoth - September 10, 2008 at 07:39 PM

JR

“ Ed was part mentor, part counselor, part comedian and all friend to me. I enjoyed every phone call we had together and keep a file of the jokes his told me so I can use them at civic club presentations etc. Ed Smith's do not come along much in life and I will remember him as long as I live and his humor and wise counsel. Myra how he loved you and the boys and those grand kids. Ed congratulations on a life well lived good and faithful servant.....

John Riggins - September 10, 2008 at 05:49 PM

DB

“ Myra, Dean and David, You know what Ed meant to me. I know what you meant to him. And believe I understand what he meant to you. I feel your loss and grief and can say many are sharing it with you, including me. Myra, you are right - he, Danny and Mimi have renewed their friendship. I long to be there with you but it is not to be at this time. Please remember I'm still in Nashville whenever you come through. Will look forward to any visit we can have. In the meantime, you are in my heart, my thoughts and my prayers. Dan (via a good friend)

Dan Berry - September 10, 2008 at 05:25 PM

DM

“ MYRA, NO WORDS CAN EXPRESS MY FEELINGS ABOUT EDY, AND I THINK YOU KNOW THAT. AS YOU KNOW, HE AND I TALKED A COUPLE TIMES A WEEK FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. A TRUE FRIEND IS ONE YOU CAN TELL ANYTHING WITHOUT FEELINGS OF REPERCUSSION AND HE FIT THE PROFILE. LOVE, DARWIN

DARWIN MCENTYRE - September 10, 2008 at 04:38 PM

LL

“ My deepest sympathies. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Ed Smith, but understand that he was a remarkable BBB leader whose achievements will endure long into the future.

Luana Lewis - September 10, 2008 at 12:35 PM

KC

“ Shortly after I entered BBB work in 1980, I met Ed Smith at a meeting. We became good friends, and I always told him that I wanted to be like him when I grew up -- never mind that we were born only 5 days apart! He really did set a wonderful example for those of us who were new to the BBB, and his dedication, enthusiasm, and integrity were highly contagious. I will always remember Ed as a friend, a mentor, and a wonderful colleague. I miss his phone calls and his wonderful good ol' boy stories or a rendition of an obscure country song -- he knew them all! Myra, Dean, and David, thank you for sharing Ed with all of us. He loved you all and was so proud of you. Ken and I will treasure Ed's memory and the times we spent together. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Kathryn (Katy) Conklin - September 10, 2008 at 07:38 AM

BH

“ Ed was one of my first customers as I started my relationship with the BBB, 18 years ago. He was a mentor to me and to many of my associates. I truly appreciated his friendship and advice over these many years. Myra our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family at this time of great loss. The world is a better place because of the life Ed lived.

Bob Hurdman - September 09, 2008 at 11:50 PM

HW

“ In today's society it is rare to have experienced a continuing friendship that started in high school, continued through college together, resumed in professional life and got even better in retirement, such was my relationship with Ed. I feel deeply for Myra, Dean, David and their families. I pray that we all can soon recall the good so overwhelmingly that the bad can be put away.

harry west - September 09, 2008 at 09:02 PM

LM

“ Jackie and I would like to express our deepest sympathy on Ed's passing to Myra and their family including the BBB bunch which he loved so dearly. Ed was not only a good friend but my mentor to the BBB workings. I feel that if God has opened a BBB in heaven ,Ed will run it, if not he will probably open one by the time we get there. Lou M

Lou & Jackie Marcotte - September 09, 2008 at 04:32 PM

BB

“ Ed and I spent a few years together in the BBB system (twenty on my part). Ed was a true friend and a great person to endure meetings and airports with, his humor, wit and leadership will be missed by all who knew him. My sincere condolences to Myra and the family who will suffer the largest void of all. I can hear Ed now, "That reminds me of the ol' boy....."

Bill Beadle - September 09, 2008 at 04:23 PM

KC

“ Ed will be deeply missed by all of us that knew him. He always had an encouraging word (or a joke) for anyone he came in contact with. I can almost see Ed and John Meyers together again leading a panel discussion... Myra, you and your family will be in our prayers, we hope that you feel the comfort of God during this time.

Kelvin Collins - September 09, 2008 at 03:40 PM

VC

“ I am so saddened that Ed did not survive the transplant after so much suffering and struggle. I can't say enough wonderful things about Ed. I am proud to call him my cousin. He was just a great man all around. He always had so many stories and made me laugh. He could talk for hours about almost anything. He always had a story and would always ask if I remembered a country music song. Half the time I did not. My Mother thought he hung the moon. I don't think she could ever get enough of Ed Smith. He made her life brighter when he was around. He could make you forget you had any problems. Since Myra is my 1st. cousin, I have to give her a lot of credit for picking such a great person to add to our family. She could not have done any better and I thank her for that. I am very thankful for all the years I spent with Ed and am sorry they had to end so soon. I want to send my sincere sympathy to Myra and to let her know I will be here for her anytime she needs me. She is more like a sister because when I was born I came home to her house. My sympathy also to Dean and David and their families. They have lost a great Dad, Father in Law, and Grandfather. I will always miss you, Ed. Love Always, Vicki

Vicki Crowell - September 09, 2008 at 12:08 PM

CU

“ The Better Business Bureau system has lost a great friend, leader and guiding spirit. I only hope, for Ed's sake, that St. Peter has a sense of humor.

Charlie Underhill - September 09, 2008 at 12:03 PM

CW

“ Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I know that you are grieving, and many tears will be shed at Mr. Smith's passing. Know that each tear represents but a fraction of the many wonderful things Mr. Smith did for love of his family, the BBB, the community and - most important - the Good Lord above. Please take solace in knowing that Mr. Smith is in Heaven, where there is no sorrow or pain.

Carmel Weems - September 09, 2008 at 11:43 AM

CH

“ Our sympathies and prayers are with you. May you be blessed with beautiful memories. Carrie Hurt and the staff of the BBB serving Central, Coastal and Southwest Texas

Carrie Hurt - September 09, 2008 at 11:33 AM

LS

“ It is with deep sadness that we learned of Ed's passing. They say a man is the sum total of his life and if that be true, then Ed will be remembered for his wit, humor, dedication to the BBB, but most of all for his integrity. Of all those I met during my tenure @ BBB Knoxville, Ed was one of my favorite people, he always made me laugh but he set an example for me of what a CEO in the Bureau should be. I will miss him but I know he goes to a far better place.

Larry W. Stith - September 09, 2008 at 11:28 AM

FE

“ Ed was one of the finest men I have ever met and I am privileged to have had an opportunity to work with him at the BBB. Ed will be missed by all of us in the BBB family. Ed had that rare quality of humor, humbleness and wisdom. You always enjoyed Ed's jokes - even if it took you a while to "catch it." God has another fine individual in His Heaven.

Fred Elsberry - September 09, 2008 at 11:10 AM

TS

“ To the Smith family - My deepest condolences on your loss. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Tim Smith - September 09, 2008 at 11:00 AM

KH

“ I wanted to say how sorry I was to hear of Mr. Smith's passing. He hired me to work at the BBB in 1983 and was a wonderful man to work for. He always tried to make everyone smile and had the best stories. He will definitely be missed by everyone he knew. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kimberly Hall - September 09, 2008 at 10:59 AM

DF

“ Myrna and the boys: I am so sorry at the turn of events. I spoke to Eddie and he was looking forward. Eddie and I graduated together, he was always the same, just a good decent guy. He will be missed by many!!!

drexel s. fuller - September 09, 2008 at 10:07 AM

NI

“ *I graduated high school with Eddy and loved him so much. He was always clowning around when we were kids and he will be missed by all of us! My thoughts and prayers are with Myra and the children. God Bless, Nikki*

Nikki - September 08, 2008 at 08:08 PM