



Lee Hampton Smith, Jr.

December 2, 1926 - July 27, 2022

The life story of Lee Hampton Smith, Jr., came full circle in the early morning of July 27, 2022, as he peacefully slipped the bonds of his earthly life and gained his eternal life with the God he had honored for 95 years. Hamp, as he was known to all, was born in Haralson, GA on December 2, 1926, to Lee Hampton Smith, Sr. and Rubye Addy Smith, both of whom preceded him in death. Hamp enrolled at Georgia Tech after high school, but WWII cut that short and he was needed at home to help with the family business. The Smith family operated a grocery store on Jefferson Street in downtown Newnan that was, in retrospect, light years ahead of its time. Amazon was still a river back in the day when the lady of the house in Newnan could call "You -Save It Grocery" early in the morning, and magically, your grocery order would appear on the kitchen counter in time for lunch. Hamp's first job was helping to make that magic happen until it the store closed in 1972. Hamp's next job was also in the retail business in downtown at the famed Johnson Hardware Company. Any and everything to keep the home running in good order could be bought there and there was always a "fixer" like Hamp on hand to give guidance. Retirement for Hamp was only a word, for he would use his considerable talents at his beloved First United Methodist Church as the maintenance overseer. Never one to sit idly by, Hamp tremendously enjoyed gardening, bee keeping, and working in his rose garden, the beauty of which was visible from the street as one drove by the Smith home. Hamp had married Patricia Johnston on May 22, 1948, and for the next 67 years, she was his faithful life

partner. Ground zero in the Smith home would come to be the kitchen. Over the years of their marriage, even in light of her busy life as a nurse at Newnan Hospital, a steady stream of breads of all kinds, cookies, and their famous cheese straws would be produced and promptly delivered wherever there was a need, or simply as a token of affection. That little bit of love added to each recipe made all of the difference to those fortunate enough to be the recipient of the fruits of their labors. As the years rolled by and life necessitated less strenuous pastimes for Hamp, tinkering around his home, puzzles and playing dominoes became favorite hobbies. He looked forward to his visits from his "girlfriends" Nancy, Pam and Mary Ann who shared his love of puzzling and dominoes. Those last days were blessed by his village of friends who provided him with creature comforts and contact outside his home. His family was grateful for his nurses Nancy and Tiara from Sacred Journey Hospice who supported those physical needs with great affection. Hamp was an only child, but his life journey was blessed by his brothers and sisters in faith who carried him through his last year of life. Maria, Carla, Annie, Barbara, Dora, Shamar, Yasmine, Starr, Priscilla, Benita and Tinnie were God sent for him. Hamp is survived by his children, Melissa Smith, Cindy Yeager and Bill, Hamp Smith and Patty, Angela Alexander, Patrick Smith and Susan. He was blessed with eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. A visitation for family and friends will be on Friday, August 5, 2022, between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Hamp's storied life will be recalled and celebrated in a service to be held at the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at 11:00 AM led by Reverend JoAn Kinrade. Interment will follow at Historic Oak Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, it is suggested by the family that memorial gifts be made to Angels' House P.O. Box 657 Newnan GA 30264 or to St. Jude Hospital for Children 262 Danny Thomas Place Memphis Tn 38105 or any charity of choice. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com. McKoon Funeral Home and Crematory 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Funeral Service

AUG 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Lee Hampton Smith, Jr.*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - August 05, 2022 at 05:03 PM

MH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



McKoon Funeral Home - August 06, 2022 at 12:03 PM

BF

“ *I met Mr. Hamp approximately 17 years ago but he made a lasting impression, I always looked forward to our visits when we went to Newnan, wonderful memories. They introduced me to cheese straws (the best ever) and I never see one without thinking of him and Ms. Pat. My sympathy and prayers to his family. Mrs. Eric Freeburg*

Beth Freeburg - August 05, 2022 at 09:33 PM

JB

“ *Mr. Hamp loved his Piedmont Newnan Gym Family. We visited there on several occasions. Being outgoing and healthy was a big part of his life for years. He will be missed in Newnan.*

Joy Barnes - August 05, 2022 at 04:15 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lee Hampton Smith, Jr..*



August 05, 2022 at 01:18 PM

JC

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Hamp at both Johnson Hardware and ACE Hardware several years . He taught me a lot and made me laugh a lot . Like someone else said I never saw him in a bad mood. I constantly think of funny things he said and did and find myself laughing out loud at these memories. Mr. Hamp was one of my favorite people and I will miss him so much. But we will meet again. My last conversation with him was on the phone a couple years ago. We talked a little and I said " I'll let you go Mr . Hamp ". He said "Ok I ain't gonna go far ". Loved his raison bread and cheese straws.*

Jody Clark - July 30, 2022 at 10:45 AM

GP

“ *Hamp was one of my best friends. We both worked for FUMC at the same time and shared many laughs. He always had a smile. He kept the AC running in the summer and the heat in the winter. I never heard him complain. I know he and Ray are sharing stories today. RIP Hamp. You have earned it. You will be missed by all who knew you.*
Love, Gerrie

Gerrie Petty - July 29, 2022 at 07:31 AM

PS

“ *Hamp was a special friend of us all at ACE Hardware. His quick witt and humor kept us in a good frame of mind throughout the day at hand. Speaking for myself, Hamp's friendship and generosity will be truly missed.....Paul Sakrison*

Paul Sakrison - July 28, 2022 at 10:56 AM

RE

“ *Robert and Debbie Charlesworth Emfinger purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Lee Hampton Smith, Jr..*



Robert and Debbie Charlesworth Emfinger - July 28, 2022 at 02:17 AM

KJ

“ *Kelley Jacobs purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lee Hampton Smith, Jr..*



Kelley Jacobs - July 27, 2022 at 04:41 PM