



Mr. John Clement Smith

May 12, 1927 - June 19, 2017

Shortly after reaching the age of 90, long-time resident of San Bernardino, CA, John C. Smith passed away in the early morning hours of Monday, June 19, 2017.

Born the son of a coal miner in Johnstown PA, John volunteered for the military at age 17- during the final year of WWII. His service in the US Air Force spanned the Korean and the Vietnam wars and continued in civil service until he retired 45 years later. His career saw his family move from Germany to Pennsylvania, Northern Italy, Colorado Springs, Washington State, and finally to San Bernardino where he ultimately retired.

He loved jazz, classical music, and opera and started many a Saturday and Sunday mornings with Brubeck, Verdi, Chopin, and many others playing on his stereo. As his wife had before she passed, John loved to watch his grandchildren play ice hockey, baseball, and softball and he was often the designated "team grandpa". John was an educated man who never stopped learning and could hold his own on most any subject. He had the reputation of never having met a stranger and would engage anyone anywhere in conversation- sometimes in different languages.

He worked hard; loved his family and friends; was a man of character and substance. John leaves behind a legacy of gratitude, love, and admiration for a life well lived. He made a difference and he will be missed.

John was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Melba.

He is survived by his close companion, Laura June, his son, Craig (wife Laurie), his two daughters, Sandra (husband Mark), and Tracey, all of San Bernardino and daughter Liz, of Kissimmee, Florida; grandchildren Jonathan, Adam, Sean, Connor, Trinity, and Tyler, great-grandson, Blake and his caring family in Pennsylvania- three brothers, two sisters, sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

His remains will be inurned alongside his wife at Riverside National Cemetery with full military honors at a date and time yet to be determined.

Cemetery

Riverside National Cemetery

22495 Van Buren Blvd

Riverside, CA, 92518

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Tracey Peters - June 25, 2017 at 10:22 AM



“ I worked with John in the Resident Auditor's Office at then McChord AFB, WA in the early 70's. He was an excellent auditor, shared knowledge and Janet and I had many good times with John and Melba. We remember them both very fondly. Our deepest sympathies to the family.

Bill Henselman - June 24, 2017 at 07:36 PM



“ Thank you for sharing your memories- I do remember dad speaking fondly of you, Bily McEun, and many others in his time at the RAO

Craig - June 26, 2017 at 01:37 PM



“ I remember John as someone whose greatest joy was seeing someone succeed. He was certainly a part of whatever success I achieved and many others can say the same. John, I will miss you.

Billy G. McEuen

Billy G McEuen - June 24, 2017 at 02:59 PM



“ Thank you, Billy for your kind remembrances of our father.

Craig - June 26, 2017 at 01:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Dad



Craig Smith - June 23, 2017 at 06:00 PM