



## Willard Bruce Smith

September 2, 1936 - February 13, 2016

On Saturday, February 13, 2016 Willard peacefully entered eternal rest after a valiant bout with throat cancer. He is survived by his wife, Anna Lorri Anderson Smith; two daughters, Kirsten Ledford (Devon) and Jennifer Zamchiya (Mubuso); three siblings, four grandchildren, four brothers-in-law, his church family plus a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church  
606 A South Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## funeral service

FEB 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church  
606 A South Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## Interment

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery  
11301 Crain Highway  
Cheltenham, MD 20623

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willard Bruce Smith.* ”



---

February 24, 2016 at 03:12 PM

“Willard Bruce Smith, age 79, passed away peacefully at Southern Maryland Hospital on Saturday, February 13, 2016 as a result of kidney failure and other illnesses. He was born on September 2, 1936 in New Castle, Pennsylvania to Walter Blaine Smith and Pauline D. Smith Pettegrew (Garside). Willard received his primary education in New Castle and attended New Castle High School where he excelled in both academics and sports. It was in high school that he earned the nickname “Bull” to describe his tenacity both on and off the field. To highlight his athletic accomplishments, Willard received two sports hall of fame awards. He accepted one in 2008 from the Lawrence County Pennsylvania Historical Society.

After high school, Willard went on to accept a football scholarship at Pennsylvania State University. However, an injury on the field left him unable to continue playing. So Willard left Penn State to serve in the U.S. Army for two years, after which he moved to Ohio to complete his undergraduate degree in Accounting at the University of Cincinnati (UC). He once again relocated, this time to Washington, D.C., to complete his graduate work in Financial Management at George Washington University. His success in the classroom and at his job with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in Alexandria, Virginia led the U.S. Department of Defense to select Willard to complete another graduate program at Stanford University.

He married Kweli Smith (Dickey) following his studies at UC and they had two daughters, Kirsten and Jennifer, together. As that marriage ended, Willard helped raise his children and continued to build his career as a systems analyst at DLA. In his spare time he enjoyed reading, gourmet cooking, listening to jazz, engaging in political discussions, and taking part in outdoor activities such as sailing, fishing, gardening, tennis, and coaching youth sports as he served as head of the youth recreation council in his community. He also volunteered with the United Way and was an amateur carpenter and electrician.

After 34 years with DLA Willard retired and kept up his interest in

*computer technology and education by working part-time at Radio Shack and substitute teaching for several years. Then on June 7, 2002 Willard married Anna Lorri Smith (Anderson). Eventually Lorri also retired from the federal government and both were able to enjoy travelling, spending time with their families, and leisure activities together. In 2014 Willard accepted salvation through Jesus Christ and enjoyed worshipping at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church in Virginia with his wife.*

*Willard "Bull" Smith is survived by his wife Anna Lorri; his two daughters Kirsten Ledford (husband Devon) and Jennifer Zamchiya (husband Mubuso); four grandchildren whom he enjoyed spoiling: Lindiwe Ledford, Chengetai Zamchiya, Taurai Zamchiya, and Simukai Zamchiya; two sisters: Mary Louise Gatson (husband Robert), Carol Aelean Lancaster (husband Sheridan); one brother: Walter Blaine Smith (wife Doris); Brothers-in-law Barry Anderson (wife Maria), Stanley Anderson; Eleven nieces and nephews; and many grand nieces and nephews; and his godson Jalen Anderson. He will also be deeply missed by his extended family and friends. Willard's father, mother, and little brother Edward Allen all preceded him in death.*

---

**JZ** - February 23, 2016 at 11:41 AM