

Obituary

W. James Smith, 60, of Homosassa, Florida, passed away on Tuesday, February 11, 2003, at his home in Sugarmill Woods. Mr. Smith was born in Iowa and graduated from National Methodist College in Kansas City with majors in psychology and biology. In the 1960's, Mr. Smith opened and operated three retirement apartment complexes in Oakland, California, and later, added two facilities in San Francisco. During these years, Mr. Smith completed his Master at the John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, California with majors in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling and Gerontology. Mr. Smith was the first state president of The California Association for Residential Care Homes. He was instrumental in developing the first form of nursing home resident government, The Resident Council and a Resident Bill of Rights. Both innovations were eventually adopted in federal legislation. In 1976, Mr. Smith returned to his Midwest roots where he administered a nursing home in Red Oak, Iowa. In 1980, Mr. Smith accepted a transfer to Palm Harbor where he helped open a large Lutheran multi-level retirement community. Mr. Smith was also the program coordinator for the Hospice Nursing Home Program in Pinellas County for Hospice of the Florida Sun Coast. At that time, the Pinellas County hospice had the largest census of any hospice in the world. In 1990, Mr. Smith opened and operated three assisted care living facilities in Pinellas County, which specialized in providing care for people suffering with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia. Mr. Smith was active in numerous church, civic, healthcare and the Democratic party organizations. He was a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and a Lions Melvin Jones Fellow. He is listed in numerous Who's Who publications.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Sharon, of Homosassa; daughter Wendy Gracy of Dunedin, daughter Stacey of Homosassa, son James of Council Bluffs, Iowa, his mother, Lois Miller, of Shenandoah, Iowa, granddaughters Chelsie and Brianna Smith and a grandson Matthew Gracy.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, March 1, 2003, at the Veteran's Memorial Chapel in Rose Hill Cemetery, Shenandoah, Iowa. The Rev. 's Bob Ray and Claude Westerfield gave the words of comfort. Music was provided by Marge Smiley. Inurnment was in the Rose Hill Cemetery. The Hackett-Livingston Funeral Home of Shenandoah was in charge of the arrangements.