



Kermit Lee Smith

May 4, 1941 - July 6, 2025

Kermit Lee Smith Jr., age 84, of Ringgold, Georgia, passed away on Sunday, July 6, 2025. Known affectionately as “Joe” to his family and “Shorty” to his coworkers, Kermit lived a life full of dedication, service, and craftsmanship. He spent his early years in Ohio and Kentucky before settling in Ringgold in 1967, the place he would proudly call home for nearly six decades. Kermit served his country honorably in the United States Navy aboard the USS Ticonderoga (CVA-14). He attended Woodstation Methodist Church and was deeply involved in the Boy Scouts of America for over thirty years, serving as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 77. He worked as a fabricator and welder at Signal Machine for 44 years before retiring—a testament to his strong work ethic and skilled hands. Outside of work, Kermit found joy in woodworking, camping, gardening, and crafting his signature homemade chow chow and chili. He enjoyed being outdoors and was an avid fisherman and motorcycle rider. Kermit was a man of many talents who touched countless lives; he was deeply loved and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years and the mother of his children, Bonnie Smith; his parents, Kermit L. Smith Sr. and Irene Hart Smith; three brothers; and a beloved great granddaughter, Reagan.

Kermit is survived by his wife, Sandy Ellis, that he has spent the last sixteen years with; his children, Chris (Dayna), Dona (A.J.), Wenda (Mark), Clifford (Kai), Cassandra (Shawn), Nathaniel (Amy), Thomas (Melissa); siblings, Mike, Bob, Dan, and Tink; sixteen grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; two great-

great-grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., and again on Wednesday, July 9, from 1:00 p.m. until the time of service at 3:00 p.m. at Wilson Funeral Homes, Wallis–Stewart Chapel in Ringgold. Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, with Pastor Bill Gardner officiating in the Wallis – Stewart Chapel of Wilson Funeral Homes. Interment will follow in Woodstation Cemetery. Online guest book at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Homes Wallis – Stewart Chapel, Ringgold, Georgia.

Cemetery Details

Woodstation Cemetery

Hwy 151
Ringgold, GA 30736

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes Wallis-Stewart Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736

Visitation

JUL 9. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes Wallis-Stewart Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736

Funeral Service

JUL 9. 3:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes Wallis-Stewart Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I was so sorry to hear of Joe’s passing. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Wishing you peace, comfort, and strength during this difficult time.

*With Deepest Sympathy,
DeShon and Susan Hodge*

DeShon Hodge - July 09, 2025 at 09:05 AM

HF

“ Henry family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kermit Lee Smith.



Henry family - July 08, 2025 at 08:16 PM

HF

“ Henry family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kermit Lee Smith.

Henry family - July 08, 2025 at 08:16 PM

JC

“ Enjoyed working with Shorty for years at Signal Machine. He will be missed. prays for the family. John and Karen Cline

John cline - July 08, 2025 at 06:17 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kermit Lee Smith.*



July 08, 2025 at 02:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kermit Lee Smith.

July 08, 2025 at 02:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kermit Lee Smith.

July 07, 2025 at 07:04 PM



“ *We are deeply saddened by the loss of Joe, a wonderful husband and friend. Joe will be remembered for his kindness and sense of humor, his love for talking about the story of him working in the shop, we will miss him dearly. Rest In Peace Joe fly high with the Angels.*



Deborah Sexton - July 07, 2025 at 06:26 PM