



## Virgil Ray "VRay" Smith Jr

December 31, 1947 - February 15, 2021

Virgil Ray Smith, Jr. "VRay", age 73 of Rossville, GA, claimed his Heavenly rewards on February 15, 2021. He was a lifelong resident of Rossville and a member of South Rossville Baptist Church. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 203 and was a charter member of Rolling Thunder TN2 where he served as Vice President for many years. VRay loved God, his Country, his friends and loved ones. He had an infectious personality and was loved by all who knew him.

VRay was preceded in death by his mother Jewell Edgemon Smith-Hash; father, Virgil Ray Smith. Sr.; and brother, Phil Shingleton.

Those left to cherish his memory include brothers, Ronald Smith of Chico, CA, Steve Hash (Nancy) of Florida, and J. Marvin Smith (Denise) of Chico, CA; sisters, Judy Perkins of Everette, WA, Cathy Smith of North Carolina, Jane Downey (Hill) of Walnut Grove, MO, Melissa Fink (Greg) of Angeles Oak, CA, Donna Smith of Cannon Park, CA, and Christine Yosh (Bill) of Salida, CA; several nieces, nephews, and a host of friends and extended family.

The family will receive friends 11am until 1pm Monday March 15, 2021 at Wilson Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe Chapel. Memorial Service will be 1pm March 15 in the funeral home chapel, Leroy Wilson officiating. VRay will then be escorted by members of Rolling Thunder to Chattanooga National Cemetery for a 2:30 graveside service with full Military Honors.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Mary and Martha's Personal Care and the nurses and staff of Hearth Hospice for the kind, compassionate care extended to VRay. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 203, 3329 Ringgold Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421.

Arrangements entrusted to W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Homes Fort Oglethorpe Chapel, 555 W. Cloud Springs Road Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742.  
(706)866-5555 [www.wilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Chattanooga National Cemetery

Holtzclaw Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 15. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel  
555 West Cloud Springs Road  
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
(706) 866-5555  
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Burial

MAR 15. 2:30 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery  
Holtzclaw Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN

# Tribute Wall

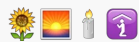
CC

“ Dearest Family of Virgil Ray Smith,  
So very very sorry to learn about the loss of your loved one.  
I met Smitty in 1970 when I was just 16 and living in Glendale,  
California. He was a friend of a friend but soon became like a big  
brother to me. He was fresh out of the military and enjoying life  
while having long hair and a beard. I had recently given my life to  
The Lord. We went on many little motorcycle rides enjoying the  
beautiful scenery of Southern California. Smitty was always kind  
and respectful. He rescued and comforted me on his bike one time  
after a fender bender car accident made our car undriveable. Smitty  
lived alone in a little apartment and enjoyed a chance to come visit  
us. One day we went with his friends in a van to the beach at  
Malibu. He said I was a good influence on him and that is the night  
he decided to change his ways and turn back to the Lord, cut his  
hair, move back to Tennessee, and become a preacher ! I never  
saw Smitty again, but we corresponded, and he sent me a picture of  
himself, all clean cut, in a suit and now a pastor. Wow, I was so  
proud and happy for him. His mom Jewel was very kind as well and  
sent a Bible and some makeup for Christmas. I am grateful to have  
had Smitty in my life and I would like to learn more about him.  
Please feel free to contact me. [nuevocindy@gmail.com](mailto:nuevocindy@gmail.com)  
most sincerely, Cindy S.  
God bless all

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Cindy Carson - September 26, 2023 at 07:08 PM

CC



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Cindy Carson - September 26, 2023 at 07:16 PM

CC

*thank you to everyone who has written comments about Smitty/ Ray I certainly enjoyed reading them.  
Deepest condolences to family and friends. 💜*

**Cindy Carson** - September 26, 2023 at 07:19 PM

KO

“ *I missed you before you were gone.*

*Freedom  
Gain for anything*

*Movie, restaurant, ride on motorcycle with others or alone, just sitting in park, hang at Applebees, cruise looking for barns, shoot pool, randomly pull over to meet-greet and educate the public about MIA. His commitment to veteran organizations. Gift of gabbing with absolutely anyone without judgement. It is a privilege and an honor to have known such an exceptional person. I've never had such a friend as VRay. A unique creation by God for sure!*

**kym oshields** - August 24, 2022 at 09:07 PM

PW

“ *Rest In Peace VRay. You are now healed completely but will be missed by your friends who hold good memories of times spent with you.*

*Pat & Kim*



**Pat & Kim Weindrop** - March 15, 2021 at 10:58 AM

SS

“ A Special Memory of my Long Time Friend VRay. We had some stories to tell in our motorcycle rides. If we got bored or moved too slow we would take off for home over the woods and over the downtown Bridges at 80mph We always had Great memories like sitting on my porch till early morning hours just talking for hours, We saved a lot of World Problems laughing all the way. I will truly miss our time and talks RIP to a Wonderful and Honorable Man



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**Shirley J Stephenson** - March 14, 2021 at 04:14 PM

CC

Enjoyed your story Shirley. He was indeed a great guy and man of honor. Ty for sharing.



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**Cindy Carson** - September 26, 2023 at 07:14 PM

AG

“ RIP our dear friend you will truly be missed Love Andy& Evelyn 💔



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**Andy& Evelyn Gideon** - February 18, 2021 at 04:56 PM

AM

“ My heart is so broken, Ray was my buddy, we would cut up with each other a lot and he had his view on a situation and I had mine and his view usually won lol. Things are just not going to seem the same at the facility with him gone,, I will cherish the laughs and the fussing we had while he was here but I will always remember him as a great person, God has gained a beautiful sole and loving, caring man that we are all going to miss so much.  
My heart goes out to Jerri and her family. All of you were like our family as well

R.I.P RAY.

ALANA METCALF

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**Alana Metcalf** - February 17, 2021 at 07:33 PM

AB

He will missed greatly he was a great guy always someone who would talk to you never a bad moment when he was here. Rip Ray we love you. Adella

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**Adella Bradley** - February 17, 2021 at 08:39 PM

AM

“ Alana Metcalf lit a candle in memory of Virgil Ray "VRay" Smith Jr



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**Alana Metcalf** - February 17, 2021 at 07:22 PM