



Smith, William Larry

1941-2019

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on October 30, 2019

Services for William Larry Smith, 78, of Cottondale, will be 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, at the First Baptist Church of Cottondale, officiated by Pastor Charles Pugh. Burial will follow in Cottondale Cemetery.

Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Hudson and Torres Family Funeral Home in Bridgeport. He passed away Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019.

Larry was born in Mount Pleasant on Feb. 25, 1941, to Aris and Tina (Amerson) Smith. He retired from Bell Helicopter in Hurst after 30 years and was involved in the research and development of the Tilt Rotor Osprey.

Larry was a true athlete who excelled at multiple sports, particularly basketball and baseball. He even played college basketball.

Throughout his life, he was an avid fan of Texas sports teams including the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers and Dallas Mavericks. He also loved being outdoors fishing, hunting or playing golf.

He was excellent at working with his hands, in woodworking or more intricate wood carving. If you had a problem, he was the fix-it man. All he needed was duct tape, baling wire and a handful of screws. He could take on large-scale building projects, using his concrete, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and welding skills.

Even though Larry could be hard as nails when necessary, he was a loving, caring husband, father and Papaw and will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents; brother Johnny Smith; sister Daphine Lee; and granddaughter Kelci Muller.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Sherryn Smith of Paradise; sons DeWayne Rayford and wife, Kari, residing in Livermore, Calif., Michael Rayford and fiancée, Angela, of Runaway Bay and Scott Smith of Austin; daughter Deborah Greiner and husband, John Paul, of Paradise; nephew Barry Miller of Weatherford; grandchildren Austin Rayford, Zachary Greiner, Rachel Rayford, Abigail Greiner, Justin Wood and wife, Melissa, and Jacob Wood and wife, Danna; and great-grandchildren Kyli and Kenzli Wood.

Hudson & Torres Family Funeral Home