



E.L. Smith

1930-2020

By [Messenger Staff](#) / Published on May 16, 2020

Services for E.L. Smith, 89, formerly of Bridgeport, are 11 a.m. Saturday, May 16, at the First Baptist Church in Decatur, officiated by Pastor David Lowrie. Burial will follow at Eastside Cemetery in Bridgeport.

Pallbearers are grandchildren Cooper, Eddie, Landon, Heath, Cole, Chance, Zach and Luke.

Mr. Smith passed away Monday, May 11, 2020, in Decatur.

He was born Nov. 13, 1930, in Erath County to Eddie and Ora (Kell) Smith.

He was united in marriage to Wilma Whitten June 5, 1948, in Eastland. The couple would've been married 72 years this June.

E.L. started his career in the oil and gas industry with Lone Star Gas Company in Cisco. He ended his 45-year career in Dallas with Enserch Exploration as vice president of production. After retiring, he worked as a salesman for Smith Oilfield Services in Bridgeport.

E.L. held double terms of presidency with the Roughnecks Club and was vice president and city councilman of the Chamber of Commerce. He director of the Lions Club, and was the district manager of Enserch Exploration.

Because of his knowledge and expertise in the oil industry, he was greatly respected by his engineers and was often called upon to do presentations to various organizations.

He and his wife were active members of the First Baptist Church in Bridgeport for several years.

E.L. enjoyed square dancing, being at the lake, gospel music, his '62 Thunderbird and most of all, his family.

E.L. was preceded in death by his parents; daughter Laura Selz; and great-granddaughter Emma Smith.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are wife Wilma Smith of Decatur; sons Johnny Smith and wife, Linda, of Jacksboro, Rick Smith and wife, Joyce, of Paradise and Sean Smith and wife, Michelle, of Austin; son-in-law Milton Selz of Midland; grandchildren Cooper, Kaycee and husband, Clint, Eddie and wife, Jennifer, Landon and wife, Ashley, Dr. Heath and wife, Andrea, Chessi and husband, David, Cole, Chance, Zach and Luke; and great-grandchildren Paxton, Colin, Landry, Harper, Wyatt, Beckham, Paisley, Noah, Molly and Blayze.

Hudson & Torres Family Funeral Home

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