



Mr. Oswell Buren Smith

October 16, 1920 - December 31, 2021

Oswell Buren Smith, of Ranburne, Alabama, was born October 16, 1920 and passed away on December 31, 2021. He was 101 years old. He was born in Macedonia community to Nathaniel “Jack” and Dura Ann Langley Smith. Mr. Smith was married to his high school sweetheart and partner, Ellen Gibbs, for 63 years. The first time he saw her, he said she was the “prettiest girl he had ever seen”! They were partners in everything they did. Mr. Smith was an Army veteran of World War II where he trained as the invasion force of Japan and was on a ship in Tokyo Bay when WWII ended and the peace treaty was signed. His unit then became part of the occupation force of Japan. Mr. Smith decided he wanted to be a dairy farmer when he was in 7th grade. After returning home from the war, he and Mrs Smith ran a successful dairy farm for over 30 years. Mr. Smith was a devoted member of Ranburne First Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, member of the choir and choir director.

Mr. Smith was well known for raising and training border collie stock dogs to herd cows and sheep and who helped him on the farm. He was awarded the “Longest Mile Award” and lifetime membership in the Georgia Stock Dog Association for his excellence in raising, training and trialing his dogs in sheepdog trials.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen Gibbs Smith and his son Thomas Arthur “Tommy” Smith.

He is survived by his daughter Mary Alice Smith (Richard Prior), Gainesville,

GA; daughter-in-law Miriam Cook Smith, Ranburne, AL; granddaughters Suzanne Smith (Edward) Vinzant, Richardson, TX and Melanie Smith (Brandon) Haigood, Ranburne, AL; Stepchildren Steven (Sandra) Prior, Cork, Ireland and Shari Prior (Bill O'Brien), Omaha, NE; 4 Great Grandchildren, Trey (Conor) Vinzant and Preston Vinzant, Dallas, TX and Tommy and Hallie Haigood, Ranburne, AL; 6 Step Great Grandchildren Rachael, Liam and Sam Prior, Cork, Ireland and Oliver, Casey and Cormac O'Brien, Omaha, NE. He is also survived by 6 first cousins.

Mr. Smith had many friends and one very special friend and 'adopted' son, Clifford (Faye Hand) Hitt. Clifford became a part of the Smith family when he and Tommy were students at Auburn University. This led to a life-long bond between the two. Every visit ended with "I love you". Also, Mr. Smith was lovingly cared for by Sharon Morgan Perkins, JoAnn Daniel and Sandy Parks, his caregivers during the last few years.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 2:30 pm (EST) at the Chapel of Rainwater Funeral Home. Prior to the service, the family will receive friends at the funeral home from 12:30 until time for the service.

With the ongoing health situation with Covid, the family asks that those who attend the visitation and funeral to practice social distancing and kindly consider wearing a mask.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 4. 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Rainwater Funeral Home
317 North Carroll Street
Bowdon, GA 30108
(770) 258-7239
info@rainwaterfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rainwaterfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 4. 2:30 PM (ET)

Rainwater Funeral Home
317 North Carroll Street
Bowdon, GA 30108
(770) 258-7239
info@rainwaterfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rainwaterfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



Rainwater Funeral Home - January 04, 2022 at 09:52 AM

MW

*Buren and Ellen Smith were special friends during the time I served as music minister at FBC Ranburne in the early 1990s. I rejoice that his faith has been made sight after such a long life. He was a true Christian gentleman and my prayers are with his family.
Mark and Nan Witham
Carrollton, GA.*

Mark Witham - January 11, 2022 at 10:26 PM

SC

“ *Phil and I were both so saddened to hear of Buren's passing! He was one of my favorite people. He had such a kind, gentle soul and we shared a love of animals, especially Border Collies. He was one of two other people who could pet my Bev dog when I first got her back from a bad living situation. We shall miss him and offer our love and prayers to all the family, especially Mary Alice.*

Susan and Phil Cobb - January 04, 2022 at 01:14 AM

SP

“ *In memory of Mr. Oswell Buren Smith. He was loved by all that knew him. He will be greatly missed.*



Sandy Parks - January 03, 2022 at 07:44 PM

CH

“ *Connie And David Hyatt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Oswell Buren Smith*



Connie and David Hyatt - January 03, 2022 at 07:15 PM

MS

“ *Mike And Jan Stitchee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Oswell Buren Smith*



Mike and Jan Stitchee - January 03, 2022 at 06:44 PM