



Earl Lee Smith

February 9, 1940 - January 9, 2025

Earl Lee Smith was born in 1940 in Visalia, to L.R. and Maxine Smith. He was a lifelong resident of Visalia and much of his life was devoted to sports. He was a member of the Visalia Babe Ruth baseball team in 1953 and 1954 that traveled to the east coast both years to compete in the National Championships as a young 13 year old. He played football, basketball and baseball in high school and was a graduate of the first class of Redwood High in 1957. He attended College of the Sequoias and started for the Giants basketball team. Upon graduation from COS, he attended Fresno State College, where he also played on their basketball team.

Upon graduation in 1959 from COS, he married his wife, Elaine. They both attended Fresno State College where Earl also played on their basketball team.

After graduating from Fresno State College, Earl began a career as an auditor for the Visalia office of the California State Board of Equalization. He retired in 2000 after 37 years of service with the Board. After retirement, Earl and his wife became members of the Kings River Golf and Country Club. They enjoyed many golf vacations across the US and Scotland. They also traveled to Phoenix several years with friends to enjoy Major League Baseball's Spring Training.

Earl is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elaine; his daughter Stacey Goodson, her husband Mark, and their daughter Megan, of Bakersfield; and his son Todd Smith of Powell, Wyoming.

He passed away peacefully on January 9, 2025 in the presence of his wife. A private burial will be at the Visalia District Cemetery. A remembrance of his life will be held at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave, Visalia at 10:00 AM, Thursday, January 23, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Earl's name to The American Cancer Society or Critter Creek Wildfire Station Animals for Education.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall

JA

“ So sorry to hear of Earl’s passing. He & Tom have probably already hooked up for a golf game!

Jana Anderson - January 15, 2025 at 07:24 PM