



Gregory Lee Smith

May 21, 1947 - July 3, 2025

On Thursday, July 3, 2025, Gregory (Greg) Smith passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. Greg was born on May 21, 1947, in Reedley, CA, to Howard and LaVerne Smith and raised in Dinuba.

Greg attended Fresno State, where he earned his degree and teaching credential. In 1966, he met Renella Mastrofina of Madera, and they were married in June 1969. Greg began his teaching career in 1971 but took a hiatus from teaching in 1978 when he went to work in wine sales throughout the region. In 1987, Greg returned to the classroom where he taught primarily sixth grade. He was active in the teachers' union as a site representative, California Teachers Association State Councilmember, Visalia Unified Teachers Association board president, and negotiator for the union. In 1999, Greg was recognized as Teacher of the Year for the Visalia Unified School District.

Greg was known for his calm, caring demeanor and as a loving man who influenced innumerable lives as a husband, father, teacher, and friend. He enjoyed barbecuing (his chicken was a standout), entertaining friends at dinner parties with Renella, vacationing in Santa Cruz with family, keeping many pets (Corgis were favorites), fishing-both freshwater and ocean with his son, and he was an avid 49er fan.

Greg was predeceased by his parents and sister, Marsha. He is survived by

his wife, Renella; son Tim Smith of Oregon; daughter Leeanna Smith of Sacramento; nephew Matthew Parish of San Bruno; niece Heather Parish (Jaguar Bennett) of Fresno; numerous godchildren; many friends; and a bevy of former students with whom he kept in touch.

The family wishes to thank Therapeutic Home Health nurse Trish for her loving care of Greg.

In place of flowers, donations can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research <https://give.michaeljfox.org/give/508128/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=16643389890&gbraid=0AAAAADvg9V-cxLVGC8U-EwF42orF7PQsJ&gclid=Cj0KCQjwj8jDBhD1ARIsACRV2TtGEValkUSpBnhmqEarEgKzsKpJWz0K3bUmbMFv7iIE_RLnB8h7ZuYaAqIXEALw_wcB> or the building fund for St. Charles Catholic Church in Visalia.

Public visitation (5 p.m.) and the Rosary (6 p.m.) will be held at Salser and Dillard in Visalia on July 17. The funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 11 a.m. on July 18th, and a reception will follow at Salser & Dillard Life Event Center.

The interment will be a private occasion for the family.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

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

Rosary

JUL 17. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ Greg was kind soul and a treasured friend of my mother’s (as well as Renella) They worked together at Fairview School. God Bless the Smith family during this time of sadness. Rest in Peace Greg.

*Marilyn Carter on behalf of
Vivian Rutledge*

Marilyn Carter - July 24, 2025 at 01:28 AM

WG

“ Renella, my thoughts and prayers are with you. It was so nice to visit with you on the telephone about Greg. I am sorry I could not be at the service. I still remember being one of your ushers at your wedding years ago, so many memories of your family growing up in Madera. Wayne Gomes

Wayne Gomes - July 18, 2025 at 07:00 PM

AE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Annabella Evangelho - July 17, 2025 at 03:19 AM

RP

“ I have such great memories of working with Greg (and Renella!!) at Golden Oak Elementary!!! The 5th and 6th grade teams may or may NOT have always behaved! We were all so close and truly enjoyed working together! Greg was such a big teddy bear with a great sense of humor. You will be missed, Greg! May the Lord wrap His loving arms around you, Renella, and comfort you in the coming days.

With love, Renee Phelps (and family)

Renee Phelps - July 16, 2025 at 07:11 PM