



## Wilbur Earl Smith

July 30, 1937 - October 16, 2024

Will Smith 7/30/1937 10/16/2024

U.S. Navy Veteran 1957- 1961

This is the handsome man I married on Oct. 7, 1978 in a beautiful little chapel in Yosemite. Wil was the smartest man I ever met. He loved learning but mostly he loved teaching. He was the consummate teacher.

For several years he taught and coached at Tulare Union High School. He was a very successful Basketball Coach and in 1974 his team won the Valley Championship.

In 1979 he began assisting in the Tulare Union High School volleyball team and by 1984 we had an award winning Volleyball team that won the Valley Championship.

Many students who had "Mr Smith" as a teacher will remember him as strict but fair. He was a very principled man of great integrity.

Whether you were in his class or on his team you always learned much more than the subject being taught. You learned about life. How to play, how to play with others. How to win how to lose. How to set goals for yourself and work on achieving them. He always believed that there was so much more that you could offer a student through teaching.

After leaving education he owned a couple of businesses but his heart was always in teaching he always said, "I miss working with young people".

In 2007 our daughter Kelley built a house right next door. This gave Wil the opportunity to play a very active role in the lives of two of our grandchildren. Connor (he called him Sam) and Taylor. He was a wonderful Grandfather they called him "POP". Our grandkids brought joy into our lives and once again they gave their Grandfather another chance to teach.

I loved him with all my heart and I will cherish his memory and love him forever.

Wil is survived by his wife Sharon, Their three children Chris Smith, Todd Smith, and

Kelley Cabello. Three Grandchildren, (Sam) Connor Cabello, Taylor Cabello, and Matthew Smith, and a sister Shirley Gonsalves. Celebration of Life will be planned for a later date.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com).

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ *My sincere condolences to Sharon and the family on Will's passing. I was the receptionist at TUHS during part of the time he taught and coached there. I remember him as a disciplined man who also developed friendships with his colleagues and showed dedication to his career and his students. May he rest in peace. Judy Dlugonski*

Judy Dlugonski - November 07, 2024 at 06:29 PM

RH

“ *Wilbur Smith was a straight forward and honest and I was proud to play for him in 1973. Today is the day that I first learned that he had died, and my only regret is that I wasn't there to show him the respect that I have always had for him. My best wishes for Sharon and the kids.*



Rod Huddleston - November 02, 2024 at 08:57 PM

KL

“ *I had the privilege of teaching with him. Students loved him and he was fair.  
Always a gentleman. So sad .*

Kay Leighty - October 31, 2024 at 10:09 PM