



Thomas Taylor Smith

February 15, 1934 - January 9, 2019

Now is a time to remember a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. On January 19, 2019, Thomas Taylor Smith passed away peacefully in Yuba City, CA. Tom will be missed by many.

Tom was born in a little suburb of Sulphur Springs, Texas, on February 15, 1934, the son of Claude Washington Smith and Lora Irene New Smith.

Tom married Joyce Jensen Smith Avenell in August of 1958. They had three children, Robin Hope, Cherie Stephens and Tom Smith. Shortly after the marriage, Tom's in-laws introduced him to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He gained a strong belief, quit smoking cold turkey and was baptized.

After a valiant effort to make his marriage with Joyce work, they were divorced after twenty years of marriage. When the divorce was final, a friend introduced Tom to Lea Garrison. They started dating and were married for time and eternity on July 12, 1979, in the Oakland Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints. They spent the next 39 plus years together as a living example of how happy a marriage can be.

Tom's childhood shaped his life. The family made many moves while looking for work. Tom repeated two grades because of all the moves and when the family finally settled in the Fairfield, CA, area, Tom had a major disappointment. He could only play football for three years at Armijo High School because he could only play until he was eighteen.

Immediately after graduation at nineteen, he joined the Army. He was stationed in Germany for two years. When he returned, he continued to study and play football at Vallejo Jr. College. He was an avid fan for his entire life.

Tom loved playing sports. One of Tom's prized possessions was a softball used in a fast pitch game between his church team and the perennial league championship team from another congregation. The ball is labeled "July 30, 1983, YC II, eleven, YC I, one." Tom was the winning pitcher.

As a young boy Tom picked fruit and cotton. Tom worked briefly for PG&E, the postal service, the SunSweet corporation and as a church custodian and a custodial foreman for nineteen years.

In spite of back problems and surgeries, Tom was a hard worker. He built a home in Brownsville, CA, located in foothills above Marysville, that was his pride and joy. He kept it

and the six acres around it in perfect order, always with the help of a trusty truck. His favorite work endeavor was a lawn service he ran for many years. He hired the eldest of four Hmong brothers to help him, giving the young man his first job. The job was then passed on to each of the other three brothers as they grew old enough to work.

Tom was a helper. If anyone needed help with a project, Tom was there. If anyone needed a tool that Tom had, it was theirs for the asking. His generosity was wonderful. He was a kind and gentle influence to all he knew.

Surviving him are his wife, Laura Lea Hendrix Garrison Smith; step-children, David Garrison (Donna), Louise Garrison, Joyce Garrison; seven grandchildren, Shelby, Scott and Zach Garrison, Porter and Samuel Garrison-Terry, Neva and David Miguez; one great-grandchild, Olivia Garrison.

Also surviving him are daughters, Robin Hope (Russell), Cherie Stephens (Jeff); son, Tom Smith; eight grandchildren, Garrett Hope, Kate Hope, Megan Stephens Grima, Madeline Stephens, Samuel Stephens, Logan Smith, Colton Smith and Jaxon Smith; three great-grandchildren, Elliott Hope, and Jacob and Brooklynn Grima.

He is also survived by a sister, Bobbie Lavelle Sheehan of Egg Harbour, New Jersey.

He is preceded in death by his parents,

and his brothers, Clifford Dean, Shelton Truitt, Bill Murry and Junior Avon.

Services will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 11:00am at the Church of Jesus Christ of latter Day Saints, 1997 North Beale Road, Marysville, CA. Viewing will be available for one hour prior to the service.

The family has requested donations to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.