

Robert J. 'Bob' Smith

November 12, 1944 - January 15, 2006

Funeral for Robert J. 'Bob' Smith, 61, Lawton, will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Comanche Nation Funeral Home Chapel with Don Crow, minister, Walters Church of Christ, and the Rev. Frankye Johnson, pastor, First United Methodist Church, Lawton, officiating. Mr. Smith died Sunday, January 15, 2006 in a local hospital.

He was born November 12, 1944 in Lawton at the old Angus Hospital to Ralph and Louie Ruth Cannon Smith. When he was an infant, he moved with his family to Japan where he started school. He also lived in Germany where his dad served in the U.S. Armed Forces. He moved back to Lawton and attended Wilson Elementary and Lawton High School. He graduated from Ludwigsburg American High School in Stuttgart, Germany and again moved back to Lawton. He received his associates of arts degree from Cameron State Agricultural College and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and Social Studies at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. He obtained his master's degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Oklahoma.

On October 21, 1966, he joined the Air Force and attended Officer Training School in Lackland, Texas. From November 1966 through January 1968, he served as a Ground Training Officer for the 454th Bombardment Wing and assured all non-flying training for over 300 B-52 bomber and KC-135 tanker combat aircrews. In September 1967, he married Ann House in Tuscaloosa, Ala. They made their home in Lackland, Texas where he served as squadron section commander for the 454th Field Maintenance Squadron and was responsible for discipline, retention, dormitory, promotions, morale of assigned airmen and administrative support for officers. He was director of education and received NDSM and SAEMR commendations for his service. He was honorably discharged on March 18, 1970 as a captain and moved back to Lawton. He married Arlene Asenap on November 26, 1976 in Indianahoma and they made their home in Lawton. He was a charter member of the Great Plains Chapter Oklahoma Public Employees Association, where he served as first legislative coordinator and several times as president. He also was a member of Cameron Campus Ministry Board of Directors, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Commemoration Committee, Lawton Noon Optimist Club, where he served as president, American Legion Post adjutant and the Oklahoma Home-Based Business Association. He was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, where he served as committee chairman of Church and Society. He was representative for Oklahoma City University and served several terms as Men's Club President. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America Lawton Chapter 751. He was also a United Methodist lay speaker since 1987.

Survivors include his wife, Lawton; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert Tillery "Robbie" and Karen Smith, Moundsville, Ala.; his mother, Fort Pierce, Fla.; two sisters and a brother-in-law: Cindy and Ed Fritz, Fort Mills, S.C.; and Kitty Howeth, Broomfield, Colo.; two brothers: Donald E. Smith Sr., Fort Pierce, Fla.; and Daryl Perry, Indianahoma; four nephews: Ed Fritz Jr. and wife, Jennifer, Cary, N.C.; Michael Fritz, Fort Mills, S.C.; Donald E. Smith Jr., Belton, Texas; and Sean Allegar, Broomfield, Colo.; three nieces: Kim Smith, Utah; Kelly Allegar, Broomfield, Colo.; and Debbie Hufford, Gatesville, Texas; an uncle, Leland Cannon, Faxon; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, and his grandparents. Memorial contributions may be made to Cameron Campus Ministries Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration committee, 500 SW 27th Avenue, Lawton 73505.