



## Larry Sterling Smith

March 30, 1941 - January 31, 2023

Larry Sterling Smith  
Pickens, South Carolina

Larry Sterling Smith was born 3/30/1941 in Huntsville, Ohio, the oldest of six children of John Sterling Smith and Betty Beryl Nelson Smith. He died 1/31/2023 in the Upstate Community Hospice House in Landrum, South Carolina, with his wife and daughters at bedside. Larry joined the Navy shortly after finishing high school, traveling around the world at least 2 times and spending time in Japan and the fiords of Norway. He always said he joined the Navy because the marine recruiter was out sick. He served loading munitions on aircraft carriers and was assigned to help round up the men on shore leave because he didn't drink and he was a big guy. His most prized item of clothing was a marine "cover" he was given for coming in first at several Marine shooting matches that he continued to be involved in throughout his life. He served on the USS Constellation, and he said the guys on the ship nicknamed her the USS Zippo because they had so many fires.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he had a career with Bell South as lineman, cable splicer, and toll test board operator, finishing his time indoors "shooting troubles" via computer.

Larry learned construction from his Pennsylvania Dutch uncle. He got his

license as general contractor, and was the principal builder for two of his houses. His hobbies included woodworking, gardening, watching Westerns, telling tall tales, and building guns (lock, stock and barrel), including muzzleloaders. He was a single shot aficionado who traveled throughout the Eastern US to German Schuetzen rifle matches. He was Schuetzenmeister of the Asheville gun club for some years. Larry was an avid and skilled deer hunter. Having helped raise siblings as the oldest of 6 kids, animals and children always brought out the best in him.

Larry was a man who never really dealt with the demons from his early life, and we are grateful to Agape hospice and the Upstate Community Hospice House in Landrum for helping him reach some semblance of peace at the end.

He is survived by his beloved wife of almost sixty years, Paula Carden Smith, his daughters Amy Smith & Dana Williams, his siblings Carolyn Anderson, Janice Brannon, Beverly Rice, and Mike Smith, and his grandchildren Christopher Williams (Katheryn), Kaila Williams Brocksmith (David), Aleah Williams, Tiffany Smith Langhorne (Dabney), Colton Smith, Austin Smith, Adam Clark (Katie), and two great grandchildren, Ronan Williams & Anneliese Williams.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, his brother Bruce Smith, and a son, Sanford Smith.

There will be no public service, but family, friends, and acquaintances are invited to post comments on this page.

Mountain View Funeral Home – Pickens Chapel is serving the Smith family.

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ Dear Paula Ann,

*I am so very sorry to hear about Big Larry. And yes, we shared the same birthday and although I always told him I was the prettiest and youngest of the two of us! Always made him laugh. Larry was one of a kind and one you could rely on to tell the truth. Thank God for men like Larry who served his country and believed in America.*

*Love you Paula Ann,  
Your friend Barbara Ann*

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**Barbara Myers** - February 09, 2023 at 03:05 PM

PA

*Thank you, Barbara Ann for your kind comments. Those definitely were the days! Love you too, Barbara Ann.*

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**Paula** - February 14, 2023 at 07:03 PM

DW

“ Paula,

*I just learned of Larry's passing. I am truly sorry for your loss. I'm glad I got to meet him so many years ago.  
You will certainly be in my thoughts and prayers. Much Love.*

*Donna Simmons Williams*

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**Donna Williams** - February 07, 2023 at 08:16 PM

PA

*Thx so much, Donna. Love to you*

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**Paula** - February 14, 2023 at 07:05 PM

LP

“ I can see from his obituary that Larry had an interesting life. And I'm glad he helped bring Amy Smith into the world because she has added so much good to it everywhere she goes.

Lanny Peters - February 07, 2023 at 01:58 AM

PS

Thank you, Lanny for your kind words. I totally agree with you. She has a beautiful soul & a wonderful, perceptive & compassionate heart.

Paula Smith - February 07, 2023 at 02:38 PM

PS

“ Paula, I'm so sorry for your & your family's loss. I think Larry would have been very pleased with his remembrance obituary. Larry certainly had a full life and had some interesting hobbies. Love & Prayers for you & your family.

patti smidt - February 06, 2023 at 11:12 PM

PS

Thank you so much, Patti for your kind & comforting words & love.  
Paula

Paula Smith - February 09, 2023 at 11:49 AM

WH

“ Very sweet man, always a smile on his face not knowing what his was dealing health wise daily. He will be missed, praying for the family.

Wendy Hyder - February 06, 2023 at 09:58 PM

BU

“ Paula, so sorry to hear about Larry. I knew he had a lot of health problems that weren't getting any better. Since A Ann's closed I have only seen y'all a couple of times. Hope there's some relief in knowing he isn't suffering any more. Your family is in our prayers and thoughts. Ben

Ben Underwood - February 06, 2023 at 03:47 PM

MA

“ Michael Anthony lit a candle in memory of Larry Sterling Smith



Michael Anthony - February 06, 2023 at 03:19 PM

AC

“ Larry was my only brother-in-law. He was an expert as a gunsmith and as a result of that he made for me a muzzle loading pistol that I continue to cherish some fifty years later!!!! Much prayer and condolences to my sister Paula and her family!!!!

Alan Carden - February 05, 2023 at 06:27 PM

JG

“ My condolences to Larry's family. I'm blessed to know, Amy! June Goudey

June Goudey - February 05, 2023 at 06:07 PM

CR

“Big Larry, as we knew him, was a man best described as a “character”. He was always telling stories, whether it be about his military days, or about what had happened that morning. You could guarantee it was going to be colorful and detailed. His mood could easily be detected when he walked through the door. You had better know his mood if you wanted to ask his opinion on basically any subject. And it was better not to ask if you didn’t really want the truth. Most days, though, you were met with the big smile you see in the picture posted on this site. I had numerous conversations with Larry over the years and I quickly discovered that under the rigid exterior, was a man who loved his family, cared for people in general, and loved his country. Men like Big Larry are too few and far between in our time and I, for one, greatly appreciated his wisdom. To Mrs. Paula and the family, my deepest condolences and thoughts are with you. God bless!

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**Corey Roper** - February 05, 2023 at 02:56 PM

PS

Corey, you definitely knew Larry better than most. You have him pegged to a “T”! He thought a lot of you & your family. I believe Larry & your mom had the same birthday & they ribbed each other about that. Thank you, Corey for these special & colorful memories.

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**Paula Smith** - February 05, 2023 at 07:18 PM

BU

Paula, so sorry to hear about Larry. I know he had a lot of health problems that weren’t getting any better. Since A Ann’s closed I haven’t seen y’all but a couple of times. Hope there’s some relief in knowing he is not suffering any longer. Your family is in our prayers and thoughts.  
Ben

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**Ben Underwood** - February 06, 2023 at 07:36 AM

LB

*Paula and family, I am saddened to hear of Larry's passing. He was not afraid to speak his mind, that is rare these days. I enjoyed knowing you all. We are praying for you all.*

**Lynn Breazeale** - February 11, 2023 at 08:44 AM