



## Walter Earl Smith

November 24, 1937 - October 16, 2021

Walter E. Smith, 83, of Ona, WV, passed away on October 16, 2021 after a battle with heart and kidney disease.

Walt was born November 24, 1937 in Paris, TN, the son of Murray and Minnie Smith. He graduated from Henry High School in 1956 and married his high school sweetheart, Peggy Ann Stahlman on September 30 that same year. He began his career with Lorillard Tobacco Company in 1962, living in Paducah, KY, Louisville, KY, and transferred to Huntington, WV as a Division Sales Manager in 1971.

Walt and Peggy were married 38 years before her death in 1995. Together, they had two loving daughters, Sherry and Shelia. He later married Kim Nichols Groom in 2001. He always said he was so lucky to have two great loves in one lifetime.

Walt retired in 2006. In his retirement, he enjoyed golfing at Riviera Golf Club, frequent beach vacations, and cheering for Marshall Football and Kentucky basketball. In his lifetime, he owned eight Corvettes, some for car shows and some for Sunday drives.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Peggy, sister Mary Margaret Lowe, and grandson Keith Randall (Rocky) Nicholas II.

He is survived by wife Kim, daughters Sherry (Steve) Morgan and Shelia Kessel both of Hickory, NC, stepchildren he loved as his own, Kerith (Andy) Richards and Kramer Groom both of Ona, WV, grandchildren Richie Nicholas of Denver, NC, Luke Kessel of Nashville, TN, Rachel Kessel of Boiling

Springs, SC, and Julia Kessel of Chapel Hill, NC; great grandchildren, Graceyn, Kendall, Jaxson, and Harper Nicholas; as well as many nieces. A visitation will be held Saturday, October 23rd, 2021 from 1pm-4pm at Henson & Kitchen Mortuary, 6357 E. Pea Ridge Road, Huntington, WV 25705. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family by visiting [www.hensonandkitchen.com](http://www.hensonandkitchen.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation - Following COVID-19 Guidelines

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services

1592 East Pea Ridge Road

Huntington, WV 25705

(304) 736-8986

[fredkitchen@hensonmortuary.com](mailto:fredkitchen@hensonmortuary.com)

<https://www.hensonandkitchen.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Henson & Kitchen Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Walter Earl Smith*



**Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services** - October 19, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ *Walter Earl Smith*

October 23, 2023 at 01:49 AM



“ *Walter was a great boss and good friend for many years. I will miss him a lot. Saying prayers for the family at this most difficult time and sorry I wasn't able to attend.*

*Your friend,  
Clyde Childers*

**Clyde Childers** - October 26, 2021 at 09:07 AM



“ *Mark Kessel Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Walter Earl Smith.*



**Mark Kessel Family** - October 23, 2021 at 06:40 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Walter Earl Smith.*



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October 22, 2021 at 04:18 PM



“ *Shelia,  
I was so sad to hear this. Your dad was so kind and always had a smile on his face. I loved his and your mom's love story. I remember she would just wait for him to come home. I'm praying your precious memories will help to sustain you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Hugs and Prayers,  
Mary Russell*

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**Mary Russell** - October 22, 2021 at 12:26 PM



*Walter was a great boss and a good friend for many years. My prayers are with your family at this difficult time. Sorry I was unable to attend the service. I'll miss talking with him.*

*Clyde Childers aka Trainwreck*

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**Clyde Childers** - October 25, 2021 at 07:22 AM

MR

“ *Shelia,  
I'm so sad to hear this. Your dad was such a sweet man, always smiling and friendly. He and your mom had the sweetest love story. I remember she would just wait for him to come home from work. Praying your precious memories will help to sustain you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Hugs and Prayers,  
Mary Russell*

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**Mary Russell** - October 22, 2021 at 11:13 AM

SY

“ *It was in 1972 or 1973 when Shelia and I became friends. So lots of great memories with the family. Every time I hear Wylan Jennings it brings back the trips to Myrtle Beach. Walt ❤️ Wylan. He tolerated Shelia and I singing at the top of our lungs with Wylan. I remember many night putting promotion stickers on cigarettes and chewing tobacco packages for him. Walt loved his corvettes and always kept them spotless. I will miss seeing his face around the “hood”☐*

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**Shonda Donahue Young** - October 22, 2021 at 09:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Earl Smith.*



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October 21, 2021 at 03:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Earl Smith.*



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October 20, 2021 at 05:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Earl Smith.*



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October 20, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Earl Smith.*



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October 19, 2021 at 05:57 PM



“ 131 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services** - October 19, 2021 at 05:39 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Walter Earl Smith.*



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October 18, 2021 at 08:15 PM