



Kermit Smith

June 23, 1921 - February 12, 2012

Bennett-May-Giles County Funeral Home

Mr. Kermit Smith passed away Sunday, February 12, 2012 at Maury Regional Hospital.

He was a longtime athletic director and coach at Martin Methodist College. a inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and was a member of the First United Methodist Church here in Pulaski.

Visitation will be 2 o'clock until 6 o'clock Thursday, February 16, 2012, at Bennett-May-Giles County Funeral Home.

The funeral Service will follow at 6:00 with Rev. Gary Taylor, Coach Jimmy Earle, Rev. Whitney Mitchell, and Pat Hendrix officiating.

A graveside service will be held Friday at 10:00am at Maplewood Cemetery.

The family suggest memorial donations be made to Kermit Smith Scholarship Fund at Martin Methodist College, %Sally Phelps, 433 West Madison Street, Pulaski, Tennessee 38478

He was preceded in death by his, parents, Nathaniel Green Smith and Lillian Samuel Smith, and his wife Jo Nell Smith.

He is survived by his, daughter, Debrah Ann Galimore of Conway, Ark.
grandchildren, Nicholas Burton, Parick Burton, Rachel Burton, and Jeremy
Burton.

6 great-grandchildren

niece, Gayle Girard of Little Rock, Ark.

special friend Sue Black of Minor Hill.

Bennett-May-Giles County Funeral Home in charge of arrangements for Mr.
Kermit Smith.

Tribute Wall

K1

“ God bless you, Coach Smith, for the love you showed us, the positive outlook you shared, and the example you set. I would be more than gratified if my years in teaching influenced one student just a fraction of the inspiration you were to me. To me, you are the picture of perseverance.

Isaiah 61:3.

*Kim Murdoch-Smith
Class of 1978*

Kim Murdoch-Smith - Franklin, TN - MMC, Class of 1978 - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

J1

“ My condolences to the family of Coach Kermit Smith. I will always remember him for the funny stories he incorporated with his teaching.

Rest in Peace - good and faithful servant.

Judy Stinnett - Former Student, Class of 1980 - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

B1

“ I will miss the long visits we had while I was at Martin College and the many times after I finished school. Coach always made the golf road trips fun and a learning experience even though I may not have known it at the time. Coach was a fine man and will always be the face of Martin Methodist. Rest In Peace Coach!

Blane Hutton - Adamsville, TN - Former Golf Team Captain 1983 - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

CM

“ I met Coach Smith in the fall of 1990 as a college freshman when he would work nights at the CLC. We would talk about athletics of course but usually the discussion would wind around to life lessons each event we spoke of could lead us to. Mr. Kermit was a true gentleman and inspiration to everyone he met and I know I became a better coach and servant just from his example. My heart is saddened to hear this news, the college lost a dear friend and the world lost a bright light.

Charlie Pope - Shelbyville, TN - Alumni and former coach @ MMC - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

F1

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Coach Smith's family, loved ones and his friends. Coach Smith was a special person and one that influenced my life tremendously by assisting me in coming to Martin as a student and helping me stay at Martin for my two years. It was such a blessing to visit with him from time to time when I returned to Martin for some of the events he was involved in. I am so grateful I took the time last summer to write to Coach Smith and and tell him how much he changed my life and thank him for it.

Frank Davis - Suches, GA - Martin student 1961-1963 - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

L8

“ Coach Smith will always be remembered as the face of Martin College. He was an outstanding individual. I have thought of him often throughout the years. My sympathy goes out to all of his friends and family. He will be truly missed!!!!

Lisa Kunkel Schaeffer - York, PA - alumni of Martin, class of 80 - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

C'

“ Coach, you will never know how much you influenced our lives. Thank you so much.

Alex Shivers, Class of '54

Charles "Alex" Shivers - Knoxville, TN - Class of '54 - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

SS

“ God Bless you Coach Smith. You taught me as a student and you inspired me as an athlete and a man. I was bless to have known you.

Steve Logan

76-77 Men's Basketball team under Coach Dan Trotter

Steve Logan - LaGragne, GA - student/athlete - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

DS

“ Rest in Peace, Coach. You gifted me and so many. Your talents, nobility, and vitality were remarkable. ~ Doak Class of 1988

Doak M Mansfield - Clinton, NC - student - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

BS

“ I was saddened to hear of Coach Smith's passing. When I was a freshman, I worked for both him and Coach Earle as my workshop. It always strikes me when we lose one of our teachers that life is indeed short! My condolences to his family. Fondly, Betty Fitzgerald (Betty Hefner, class of 1965)

Betty (Hefner) Fitzgerald - Mt.Washington, KY - former student - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

MS

“ Mr. Smith,

You were a wonderful Swimming Instructor but most of all a Great Friend. I will miss our conversations about old times when you taught swimming lessons and when you taught at Martin Methodist College. You were a ray of sunshine in my life and you will be sorely missed. Remember who loves you..... for all your encouragement and positive instruction in life. Hope to see you in the next life.

*Love Always
Mary*

Mary Moody - Pulaski, TN - Student - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

HT

“ *Coach Smith was a man of class. Always quick with a smile and a kind word. Coach Smith will be greatly missed by the Martin family. Thoughts and prayers to the family.*

H. Scott Delk '92 - Chapel Hill, TN - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

ZF

“ *Kermit is probably the face of Martin College (old dog here) more than any other individual. I took golf as a P.E. elective from Kermit so I could learn to play golf. Not only did I learn to play golf, but I learned much more about the game of golf and everything involved with it - design, history, sportsmanship, how to appreciate a course, etc. I can't step onto a course without thinking of him.*

He was a shining example of what makes Martin Methodist (learning) the special place that it is.

Rest In Peace Coach

Zach Clayton

Zach Clayton - Kingston Springs, TN - Friend/Student - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

GS

“ *I HAVE MANY FOUND MEMORIES OF KERMIT. HE WAS A GENTLEMANS GENTLEMAN. NEVER MET A PERSON SO POSITIVE ON LIFE AND A TREMENDOUS "CAN DOER". HE WIL SADLY BE MISSED BECAUSE TO ME HE WAS, "MR. MARTIN COLLEGE" AND ALWAYS WILL BE.*

HEAVEN IS GETTING A GATEKEEPER !

GENE E. CRIPPEN - JONESBORO, IL - FRIEND AND FORMER STUDENT - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

LF

“Kermit was a great friend and mentor. He touched so many lives in so many positive ways. He always made us feel good about ourselves.

His enthusiasm and encouragement will be truly missed.

Kermit was one of my heros!

Lynn Greer

Lynn Greer - Nashville, TN - Friend - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

LF

“I have known Kermit Smith for over forty years as a Coach; Athletic Director; NJCAA Region VII Director; and as the Publicity Director of the TJCCAA before, during, and after my tenure as the TJCCAA Commissioner.

Kermit and I traveled for NJCAA events several times to Colorado; two times to Kansas; and to all the Tennessee Junior and Community Colleges for athletic events and award presentations. He spent nights in our homes in Tennessee and was always welcomed by my wife, Evelyn, and me. He was indeed a gentleman fist class; a great advocate for athletics; a fine Christian; and one of the very best friends I have ever had.

My wife, Evelyn, and I wish to express our sympathy to the family. We know Kermit is definitely in Heaven advising those still here on earth to eat properly and exercise daily! May you rest in peace until we meet again.

*Your longtime friend and pal,
L. Quentin Lane, Commissioner Emeritus
Tennessee Junior and Community College Athletic Association*

L. Quentin Lane - Ormond Beach, FL - Friend - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

JS

“ *What a loss for our Martin family. Coach Smith was a great man, dedicated to his principles and beliefs, a roll model for all to follow. I just appreciate knowing and being able to recall many fond memories. He was, in my mind, Martin College. Quick witted, smart, and always there for mankind. Heaven has brought home a saint. Coach - you will be missed by many, and was a positive influence on all that you taught and touched.*

Johnny Jones - Harriman, TN - Student - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

ST

“ *I very well remember Coach Smith for HIS famous DUCK WALK all the way around the gym during class I also worked for him in the office in the work-study program during the years 1962-63. He was a wonderful teacher and counselor. I am extremely fortunate to have been well acquainted with Coach Smith.*

*Sandra Gillespie
Martin Junior College, Class of '63.*

Sandra Read Gillespie - Memphis, TN - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

SF

“ *I shall cherish our Christmas together when I gave him the razorback gift.*

Sheila Maxiell - Conway, AR - Friend - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

BF

“ I FEEL VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN A FRIEND OF COACH SMITH. WE TOOK ALOT OF TRIPS TOGETHER WHILE I WAS ON THE GOLF TEAM. HAVE MANY GOOD MEMORIES OF THE MANY COURSES WE PLAYED. COACH WAS ALWAYS POSITIVE AND ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM ARE BETTER AS A RESULT. HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK COACH ABOUT 2 WEEKS AGO . I'M THANKFUL I DID.

BARRY CHRISTIAN - COLUMBIA, TN - friend - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

PF

“ There are no words to adequately describe him..... no paint can truly capture his portrait, I only have memories of the man who inspired, encouraged and challenged me to become and do more that I ever thought possible.....
I shall miss him everyday for the rest of my life..... I yearn to see him.....

Pat Hendrix - Pulaski, TX - Friend - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM

DF

“ I've always admired Coach Smith, and will always remember him. I worked for him when he was in charge of the Municipal swimming pool at the rec center. I was a lifeguard there in my high school years. He encouraged me to get my Red Cross water safety instructor degree, which I did, and as a result of that I was able to save 3 people's lives over the years, as well as mine a couple times. Those people being able to live and enjoy their lives were a direct result of Coach Smith's persistence, foresight and caring for other people.

Coach----You made a difference in my life, and the lives of thousands of others. I'll never forget you. Dennis Malone

Dennis Clark Malone - Pulaski ., TN - Friend - February 10, 2012 at 02:45 PM