



## Douglas Charles Smith

April 28, 1944 - January 29, 2021

Douglas Charles Smith, a fourth-generation Tallahassee native, died peacefully at home on January 29, 2021, surrounded by his family. He was 76 years old.

Doug graduated from Leon High School in 1962, rowed on the crew team at Jacksonville University, and later attended Florida State University. Doug was a Golden Chief and longtime Seminole Booster. He served in the US Army Reserves for six years, during and after college.

For over 40 years, Doug was professionally dedicated to Ajax Building Company, a construction company founded in 1958 by his father, John Bloxham "Block" Smith Jr. At Ajax, Doug acted as the Company's President for 15 years, as well as Chairman of the Board for 10 years. Under his leadership, Ajax grew exponentially -- from a local to multi-state business covering a mix of ground-up and renovation construction projects for a diverse range of sectors including education, government, healthcare, and historic restoration. During this time of rapid expansion, Doug was particularly proud of maintaining the Company's core values and culture as a proud family-business. He continued to advance the Company in retirement -- supporting Ajax employees, attending annual corporate meetings, and visiting job sites.

Active in the community, Doug was a member of the Tallahassee Chamber of

Commerce, Associated Builders and Contractors (where he was President), First Union Board of Directors, the Colonels, Committee of 99, Elks Club, Town Club, and Springtime Tallahassee. While in Springtime Tallahassee, Doug took on the positions of “Spanish Krewe Chief” and “Andrew Jackson XIII.”

With his signature zest for life, Doug loved planning trips abroad, as well as hosting friends and family in the mountains of Banner Elk, NC and at St. Teresa Beach. He was passionate about cooking, fishing, woodworking, and caring for rescue dogs.

Doug leaves his wife of 55 years Karen Williams Smith, his son John Bloxham “Jay” Smith II (Bri), grandchildren Avery Smith, Ty Smith, Kate Smith, and Claire Smith, a brother Robert L. Smith (Suzanne), sisters and brother-in-law Kathy and Chris Doolin, Cris Speer, Tina Williams, and Pam Brame, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son Kevin W. Smith and parents Block Smith and Irene Smith.

The memorial service will be at 2 p.m. EDT Tuesday at Good Shepherd Catholic Church of Tallahassee and livestreamed at <https://goodshepherdparish.org/livestream> . Memorial contributions may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Rocky Bevis and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) are assisting the Smith family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
4665 Thomasville Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Karen, Jay and Bobby and all the Smith family - I am so blessed to have known this "larger than life guy" since was he was 10 years old. I have always felt like family because Block and Irene made us feel like family. My husband and I rolled into town in 1954, to look for a place to live, as this was his new territory with Sheaffer Pen Company. We checked into the Cactus Motel and were invited to a fish fry in the owner's back yard that same night. It was the beginning of a long and special friendship. I tell everyone they adapted us. They became my first born's God parents. We partied, played poker, danced, went to the coast, vacationed and of course, went to Seminole football games. In 1960 Block built our dream home where lived for 45 years. Today my son texted me his first job (summer job in high school) was at Ajax where he made \$1.65 an hour. We love you all and we share your loss, Barbara Shannahan and family

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**Barbara Shannahan** - February 02, 2021 at 07:48 PM



“ Doug's passing will be a loss to all who knew him and to Tallahassee. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this time of grief.  
With love and concern,  
Larry and Mary Carol Gonzalez

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**Larry Gonzalez** - February 02, 2021 at 02:11 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Douglas Charles Smith.



January 31, 2021 at 03:42 PM



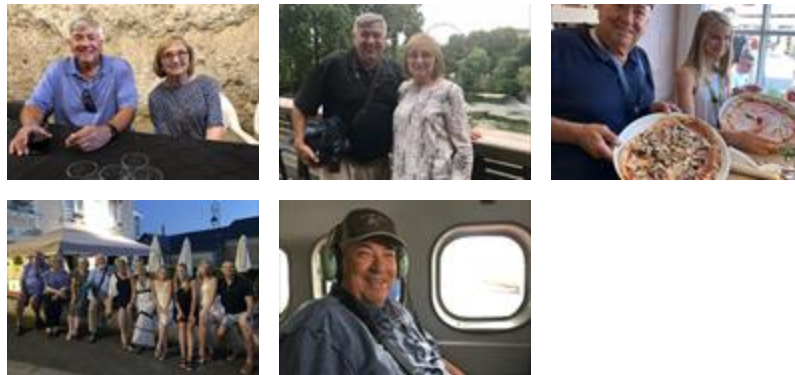
“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Douglas Charles Smith.



January 31, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ *24 files added to the album Memories Album*



**Jay Smith** - January 31, 2021 at 09:10 AM

DD

“ It is so hard to believe that Doug is gone since he was a man who embodied the true meaning of LIFE. He truly LIVED - in that he not only enjoyed his own life but shared his love of life with EVERYONE ELSE, by bringing humor, love, laughter, to every situation, even to his own dire situation.

*He was brave, knowledgeable, formidable, strong, and a teacher. He shared his gifts, and for that we are most thankful.*

*I met Doug nearly 2 years ago at Los Robles Park. He was the founder of our "Yappy Hour", where we gather with a beverage and our dogs. The dogs play with one another and we socialize as neighbors. It was the highpoint of my day. He was the most energetic, wisdom-dispensing, and laughter infecting man I ever met.*

*I will never forget Doug. I will never forget the positive influence he had and will continue to have through those of us who aspire to be like him. And I am one.*

**WE LOVE YOU DOUG AND KAREN!!!**

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**Daniele Dixon** - January 30, 2021 at 09:17 PM

RR

“ Doug Smith was a wonderful neighbor. He was kind and generous to all. He will forever hold a special place in the hearts of the Los Robles "Yappy Hour" friends and canines who meet up regularly in the park. He is the founder of Yappy Hour and his legacy will continue as long as fellow neighbors and their dogs cheerfully greet each other in Los Robles. We will miss him and send our prayers for comfort and peace to Karen and his family. -Ruth & George Reynolds

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**Ruth Reynolds** - January 30, 2021 at 03:01 PM