



Rodney Pennell Smith III

May 15, 1957 - February 15, 2017

Rodney Pennell 'Penn' Smith III, born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957 and passed away at age 59, in Tallahassee, Florida on February 15, 2017. Penn is survived by his loving wife Cynthia Lee Wright, his parents, Rodney 'Rod' Pennell Smith, Jr. and Elaine Campbell Smith, and his sister Melissa Elaine Smith and partner Joni Cabibi. He is survived by his two daughters, Lily Fawn Smith and Lacy Paige Smith, stepsons; Kenneth Lyle Miley (Mary) and his mother Lisa Smith (Brewer), stepson, Jordon Joseph Jerih.

Penn attended schools in Clermont, Leesburg, and Tallahassee, Florida and later Orange, Connecticut where he was awarded Outstanding in Arts/Handicrafts. He attended Hernando-Pasco Community College, while developing Withlacoochee riverfront property with his mother, Elaine. He matriculated at Tallahassee Community College and received a B.S. degree in computer science from Florida State University, where he first met Cynthia who he would eventually marry later in life. Penn joined the Florida Department of Education and was instrumental in establishing statewide digital networks and in providing the database to enforce the Federal Program, Title IX, which ensured equal rights for funding female athletic programs in Florida schools. He advanced to an administrative position in the Florida Department of Revenue, implementing several employee-training programs throughout state and national computer networks.

Penn will be missed greatly by his family and friends for his caring, thoughtful

attention to the problems of others, including those he mentored and with whom he found fellowship. His family will remember him as the funny problem solver and unconditionally loving man that he was.

Visitation will be Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 2:00pm with a Celebration of Penn's Life following at 3:00pm at Bevis Funeral Home, 2710 N. Monroe St. Tallahassee Florida. In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted to Casa12, Inc. <http://www.casa12inc.org/>.

Scotti Thompson is assisting the Smith family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Memorial Service

FEB 21. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ *You left us too soon. We miss you and we will see each other again in another world.* ”



Jordan Jereb - November 14, 2024 at 02:50 AM

CY

“ *I miss you so much Penn. ...I love you. .. Cynthia* ”

Cynthia - June 24, 2017 at 06:27 PM

CS

Cynthia - I'm sorry for you loss & pray you feel held in your grief. Penn's wit, light, and Commitment left a mark with me and many. Wishing you and yours peace.

Carol Schwarz - July 03, 2017 at 05:00 PM

CY

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



Cynthia - June 24, 2017 at 06:25 PM

DP

“ I had the privilege of working with Penn for several years, and later he became my boss for several more. He was a funny, kind-hearted person and always kept me laughing. Even though he was my boss, he also became my friend, and a great encourager and teacher. To say he was brilliant is putting it lightly. I am so sad that we have to live without him on this earth, but look forward to the day when we will see him again. My prayers for peace and comfort go out to his family.

Dianna Pollock - February 22, 2017 at 09:05 AM

CY

Very sweet. Thank you for sharing. He was very bright man and loving to me Cynthia

Cynthia - February 22, 2017 at 11:38 PM

TP

“ With our Sympathy

Penn will always be remembered for being an enthusiast man....

Once he became attached to a cause or task he always became absorbed into his work filled with enthusiasm and passion.

He will truly be missed.

~Tony & Candace Powell



Tony K. Powell - February 21, 2017 at 01:00 PM

PK

“ Penn was a genuine person, kind, caring and a true friend and mentor. I had the great pleasure of working for him at the Department of Education where he was a true inspiration and a technical genius! Penn was a true leader not always making popular decisions with the status quo but always doing the right thing. I saw him stand up for many people. When he left DOE he recommended me for his job, a female manager in IT and a new person in state government, not what everyone expected. I credit him for inspiring me and giving me the opportunity to excel in state government. He had an amazing memory, wonderful sense of humor and loved words. We competed on occasion over the use of his word of the day in a sentence, though I could never really compete with him. He remained a dear friend over the years and every time I saw him the first thing he would tell me was how his girls were and what they were doing, then he would talk about Cynthia. I will miss him dearly and will look forward to seeing that smile of his again one day. Sending love and peace to his family.

Penny Kincannon - February 21, 2017 at 11:31 AM

KM

“ Penn was truly one of the kindest men I've ever know. We will miss him dearly and send love and prayers to his family.

Krista, Brian, Patrick and Katie McGrane - February 20, 2017 at 08:16 PM

CY

Appreciate your words. He loved you guys too. ..Cynthia

Cynthia - February 21, 2017 at 12:56 AM

JL

“ *Brilliant and unconditional love describes him best. I was fortunate to have worked for Penn at the DOE and DOR. I've joked that Penn could have outperformed most using 50% of his brain. He cared deeply for his family and spoke of you often. Penn overcame so much and gave back to so many. I will miss the pictures he would send me of his fun travel adventures. Last October from the Smokey mountains, he said he finally got to see the autumn colors I had often talked about. I will see you again my friend, because I know where you are.*

Joe Lockard - February 20, 2017 at 02:42 PM

WW

“ *Penn will be greatly missed. He was a kind hearted person who cared deeply for the ones he loved. I'll miss talking with him and sharing moments of his incite and wisdom. He was a wonderful brother who always let me know how much he cared for me and our entire family every time I saw him. My prayers are with all of us he left behind and I'm thankful to have had the chance to know him. I'm gonna miss you.*

William Wright - February 20, 2017 at 09:51 AM



“ *I've had the great pleasure of knowing Penn for a number of years. Penn was a very bright and funny guy. He was quick with a quip and very aware of any situation at hand. I'm really going to miss him.....he was a real friend. RIP Penn.*

Pat Campbell

Pat Campbell - February 20, 2017 at 08:22 AM

CY

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cynthia - February 19, 2017 at 09:17 PM

LS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lisa Smith - February 19, 2017 at 08:27 PM

LS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lisa Smith - February 19, 2017 at 08:07 PM

LS

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



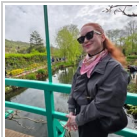
Lisa Smith - February 19, 2017 at 08:04 PM

CY

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



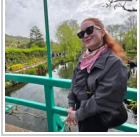
Cynthia - February 19, 2017 at 08:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lilith Smith - February 19, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lilith Smith - February 19, 2017 at 01:53 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lilith Smith - February 19, 2017 at 01:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lilith Smith - February 19, 2017 at 01:51 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rodney Pennell Smith III.*



February 18, 2017 at 11:24 PM

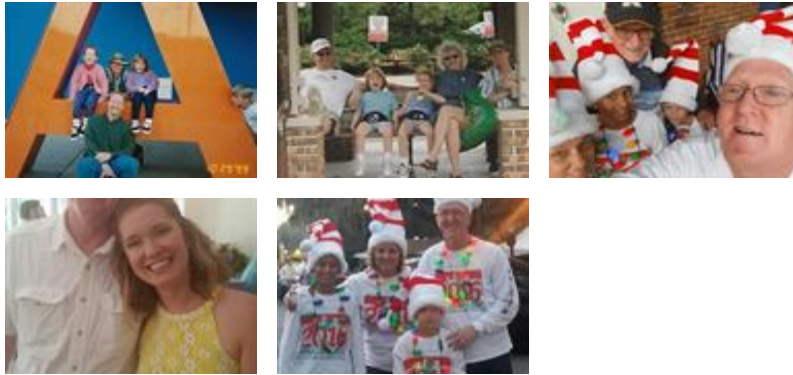
BS

“ I enjoyed working with Penn at the Department of Education. My condolences to the family.

Brenda S Scott - February 18, 2017 at 05:38 PM

B
BEVIS

“ 73 files added to the album Life Tributes



Bevis Funeral Home - February 18, 2017 at 02:42 PM

HR

“ I so appreciate the shared memories which gives me a warm feeling of the wonderful adult Penn had become. Penn, his sister, and my three boys were close friends as they grew up in the same community. What little rascals they all were! Elaine and Rodney, I grieve for his loss and will continue saying prayers for his soul in the next world.

Harriette

Harriette Robinson - February 18, 2017 at 01:09 PM



“ *I met Penn through work at the Department of Revenue where he was an ally and partner. Always fun to be around, kind, helpful, brilliant, and through all that we became friends. Lacy and Lily, the way he talked about you two showed how very proud he was of you. Cynthia, I was so glad your love brought you back to each other; my heart is breaking for you.*

Brunetta Pfaender - February 18, 2017 at 10:12 AM

FM

“ *This man helped me through the greatest difficult times of my life. I will miss him so very much! For at least a year, he was my leader, counselor and brother leading me through the steps and a reason for living. I will miss him so very much! Farnum*

Farnum Miley - February 17, 2017 at 11:03 PM