



Thomas Lance Smith

December 6, 1943 - September 3, 2012

After a brave, but brief battle with cancer, Thomas Lance Smith, 68, of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his own home, surrounded by his family on September 3, 2012. Lance grew up in Sneads, Florida, among a large extended family. In 1963, he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Rodgers, and settled in Tallahassee. She was the love of his life for the next fifty years. Lance retired from the State of Florida Auditor General 's Office after 30 years of dedicated service. While there, he made many lasting friendships. After retirement, Lance enjoyed pursuing hobbies and spending time with his family; which was his greatest joy in life. He is survived by, his wife; Barbara, daughters; Kim Smith and Amy Smith Burch, and son-in-law, Destry Burch, his grandchildren; Lance Burch, Kianna Woolington, Lucas Burch, and Karli Woolington and his sister Helen Gaskin. He also leaves behind a cherished extended family and many friends. He was preceded in death by his sister, Connie Whitfield. The code of honor that Lance lived by was an example to all and his heart of gold will be greatly missed. The family will receive friends Friday, September 7, 2012 from 11:00 until 12:00 Noon at Bradfordville First Baptist Church and the funeral service will follow the visitation, with interment at Meadowwood Cemetery. Bevis Funeral Home (850)385-2193, www.bevisfh.com, is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

MeadowWood Memorial Park

700 Timberlane Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bradfordville First Baptist Church
6524 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Service

SEP 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Bradfordville First Baptist Church
6524 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Lance Smith*



Bevis Funeral Home - September 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Lance Smith.*



September 05, 2012 at 12:07 PM



“ *Quiet Expressions was purchased for the family of Thomas Lance Smith.*



September 05, 2012 at 09:52 AM

YF

“ *Mrs. Burch, you know that your father loved you and he was a good man. You are a shining example of his love and dedication to his family. He will live forever through you and your family.*

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

We will continue to pray for you and your family.

We love you,

Your Sullivan Family

Your Sullivan Family - September 05, 2012 at 09:33 AM

DS

“ *I know that Mr. Smith was a wonderful father, husband and grandfather and he will be missed by all that knew him. I can see that he raised his children to be positive role models to all those they meet. I have the privilege of working with Amy and can see that positive attitude each day.*

Dottie Schaffner

Dottie Schaffner - September 05, 2012 at 08:57 AM



“ *I have the pleasure of working with Mr. Smith's daughter, Amy, everyday. He must have been a wonderful, special man to have raised a daughter so kind and caring. Thoughts and prayers to his family.*

- The Penn Family

September 04, 2012 at 06:04 PM

DG

I worked with Lance for 27 years and thought of him as my second father. He was a wonderful boss and helped me be who I am today. I appreciated the honor to work with him for so many years. He will be missed by many and my thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family.

David Greene

David Greene - September 04, 2012 at 06:46 PM

CM

Lance is a person who has the innate ability to put things in their proper perspective.

He can separate the wheat from the chaff.

It is rare that a person can have such good insight and then be reflective.

And at the same time protect himself and his staff from the proverbial shaft.

Every time that I have had occasion to work with Lance it has been a pleasant encounter.

He can see a silver lining in situations most ill.

He can cope with most any problem and do it in a friendly manner.

Such characteristics define a true leader and Lance fits the bill.

Lance is an old Jackson County boy who graduated from Sneads High School.

So we know that he has learned and lived by the golden rule.

We also know that he graduated from Chipola Junior College and FSU.

We know that he has been taught right and is tried and true.

But what does the future hold for Lance?

I predict that his life will continue to enhance.

He has a family, a wife, two daughters and their husbands,

And four grandchildren (two boys and two girls) in his life.

So his future will not be filled with much strife,

That is as long as he understands his role is to do what he is told.

If this family man role does not fill his time.

He has golf and attending softball games his time to fill.

And then if watching a football game or two is not deemed a crime,

He will have plenty to give him an occasional thrill.

Without a doubt we are indebted to Lance

He left us a great legacy indeed.

He taught us how to manage and enhance.

And he taught how to succeed.

So if you are not sure of what you are doing and how to do it, and you are feeling low.

Remember, Lance learned to manage without getting thrown out of the nearest window.

Lance, you have stood the time and stood the test and

You are cut above all the rest.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY RETIREMENT!

From the Mac Char archives.

Charles E. McClellan - September 05, 2012 at 09:48 AM

JS

On the golf course, you were occasionally called "Hercules", for the magnificent shots you would make, putting the rest of us to shame. But you were far more than just a super-hero to your family and friends. Lance, you'll be missed. Your kind heart, your good golf game, and your friendship. I only knew you for barely a year- but I'll carry you with me the rest of my life.

Jeff Shaara

Jeff Shaara - September 05, 2012 at 02:02 PM

WI

Charlie Mc's and David Greene's tributes to Lance are much more eloquent than any effort on my part.

I just know that I truly looked forward to having a morning cup of coffee in the atrium with Lance, or in the afternoon, a friendly game of racquetball at the church gym.

Behind Lance's down-to-earth demeanor and dry, wonderful sense of humor, hid a soft-spoken intellectual giant who was continually faithful to his God by personal example.

God Blessed Me greatly by giving me time on earth with Lance, and we wish much of the same for his surviving family.

Very Respectfully,

Bill Humbert and my wife Patt.

William Shepard Humbert, III - September 05, 2012 at 02:14 PM

MW

Amy, I am so sorry about your Dad. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. I share the same feeling as Dottie and Betsy. Your Dad must have been a wonderful man. He and your mom raised a wonderful daughter, I am fortunate to call you friend. You are a treasure.

*All my Love, Maura Wheeler,
Kate Sullivan.*

Maura Wheeler - September 06, 2012 at 08:58 AM