



Arthur Eugene Smith

August 14, 1944 - December 8, 2010

"Art's love for his family was unfailing and pure. He touched so many with his goodness and kindness." Arthur Eugene Smith of Amboy, WA, passed away on Dec. 8, 2010. He was born in Brooklyn, NY to Arthur and Mildred Smith and grew up in Selden, New York. Art earned a BA in Education as well as a Master's in Education from EWSC (now Eastern WA University in Cheney, WA). After college graduation, he spent 28 years in the Yakima Valley, teaching History, English and coaching in Mabton and Benton City. He spent 13 years as an Assistant Middle School Principal and 10 years as Principal in the Grandview School District. In 1998 Art received the WA State Regional Distinguished Principal Award. Art had an extensive military career: he served just under two years with the Navy Reserve, eight years active Air Force, two years Army National Guard, three years with the Air Force National Guard and was a member of the American Legion in Amboy. Art had a passion for hunting for many years while living in the Yakima Valley. He loved golf, especially playing with his wife and grandchildren. He enjoyed reading, camping and woodworking projects in his shop. His other true passion was flying. He owned a Cessna 172 and a powered parachute. In 2002, he joined the NW Powered Parachute Coalitions as an instructor and later president of the club for five years. He volunteered for the Clark County Fire District #10 in Amboy, WA and briefly as a tour guide at the Pearson Air Museum. The family would like to thank the NW Powered Parachute Coalition for their friendship, caring concern, and support at this difficult time. Art is survived by his wife of

46 years, Clare; his two daughters, Christine and Keith Lucken of Richland, WA and Sandra and Todd Gorder of Ridgefield, WA; four grandchildren, Steven and Brittney Theofelis and Jonah and Jaden Gorder.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 07:12 PM



“ I got to know Art by chatting to him via the Internet for over 10 years. He shared his life's passions, family, work, military and of course FLYING/ I felt that I have come to know Art's family also by the discussions we have had and I know his love for his family shone through in everything he did. We laughed together, shared some tough times and just generally chatted about life, books, music and flying and I will remember his wit but most of all his wisdom. He was one of the most positive people I have ever had the good fortune to know and even though we never met in real life he was a true friend and I miss him so much/ Rest in Peace Art.

Liz Cook - November 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I have had the privilege of having Art Smith in my life since I was 6 years old. He was the Vice Principal of the first school I ever attended. Art was also the father of my best friend my whole life. When I think of him I describe him as a kind, confident & capable man. We refer to him & Clare as Gma&Gpa Smith. Dad Smith will always be a part of our chosen family...We love him & will miss him very much. Love, Rob, Colleen, Lucas, Will & Corrin Wahto

Colleen Wahto - December 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Clare & Family, Art was a wonderful person who always had a story to tell that made you smile. Tim & I have so many fond memories of Art; and I was especially touched when he helped Tim plan the most spectacular engagement proposal ever! I am not sure who was more excited that day....Art or me! Art will always be in our hearts! God Bless.

Suzie & Tim Bennett - December 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ I was saddened by the news of Art's passing. He was the first principal I worked for. Art was a great guy who cared about his family, his teachers and his students. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. God Bless!

Leigh Hancock - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Seems like I have known Art forever. I started working at the Grandview Middle School in '83 and we took off right away as friends and comrades as we were both Air Force veterans. I tried taking care of the school without him having to worry about that part of his job, he held me up and I did the same for him. Have missed him since he retired and left Grandview, always had time to chat with me no matter how busy he was. Rest in piece 'ol buddy....

Roy Wolkenhauer - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Dear Clare and Family, Was so sorry to hear about Art. It was strange to lose two G'view Principals within a two week span. You are thought of and will be lifted in prayer. Many hugs to you, Rachel

Rachel Ott - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Clare, you & your family are each in our thoughts & prayers. Art was a gentleman & a gentle man. He enjoyed life & a good laugh; most importantly though for a school principal, Art liked kids, he made sure they knew it & their parents as well. You are loved.

Gaylen & Lois Chilton - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ Met Art at Fred Meyers in 2006. Art was always upbeat, and had a story to tell. Loved his stories about flying, his military days, his days as a principal, his family stories (his favorites). We became golfing buddies, and would try to out do each other by seeing who could get the highest score, we laughed a lot. My wife and I got to meet the love of his life, Claire, and were able to share some wonderful meals together. Miss and love you Arthur.

Will Cannon - December 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM