



John Woodrow Harris Smith

February 11, 1939 - October 1, 2021

John Woodrow Harris Smith of Mount Holly passed away peacefully on Friday, October 1, 2021 at his home. He was 82.

Born in Taylor, PA, the son of the late George and Jeannette Smith, John was a graduate of Girard College in 1956, earned his bachelors from Penn State and his Master's of Science from University of Scranton. He taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grade at the Springfield Township School in Jobstown for 41 years. John loved teaching and interacting with the children and his fellow teachers. He truly had a gift for connecting with others and creating good conversation. He was a member of Acacia Lodge and Keystone Consistory for over 50 years. After his retirement, he was a volunteer at the Masonic Village for 15 years and also worked the Polls.

John is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara; 2 daughters: Amy Blandin Smith and Cynda Cooper Tamase & her husband Douglas Tamase. 2 grandchildren: Cooper John and Kyle Anthony Tamase. John was predeceased in death by his brother Walter Harris Smith.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 16 at 11:00am at the First Presbyterian Church, 125 Garden St., Mount Holly. Friends may visit with the family on Saturday from 10am-11am at the Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Samaritan Life Enhancing Care, 3906 Church Rd., Mount Laurel, NJ 08054, Shriners Hospital for Children, Attn: Processing Center, PO Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394 with a memo

notation SHC – Philadelphia, or the Food Bank of SJ, 1501 John Tipton Blvd.,
Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
125 Garden St.
Mt. Holly, NJ

Memorial Service

OCT **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
125 Garden St.
Mt. Holly, NJ

Tribute Wall



“ *John Woodrow Harris Smith*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *John Woodrow Harris Smith*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *A very favorite teacher of mine. Always had a smile and a teasing comment. He was my sixth grade instructor in 1964. He taught the whole class to play soccer and took us on a trip to Girard College. My son also had John for his teacher when he was in fourth grade. I have such pleasant memories of my sixth grade year and of running into John in the A&P grocery store years later where he always knew who I was. He really was a Special Guy!!*

Lois Rue Scott - December 17, 2021 at 09:06 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Woodrow Harris Smith.*



October 11, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ *Celestial Love was purchased for the family of John Woodrow Harris Smith.*



October 11, 2021 at 10:15 AM



“ *My favorite teacher at Springfield elem. ❤️ So sorry to hear of his passing.*

jessica schwalje - October 09, 2021 at 09:00 PM



“ *John was an icon at STS for many years. He loved pranking many of us by hiding our lesson plans or stealing a 🖱️ He would stop by each morning and ask me to play some obscure tune forgetting that I was an oldie too and knew it..🎵🎵🎵 kiids now will never know a wonderful teacher and person.Well miss u and no more pranking PLEASE... 🤪🤪🤪🤪 I asked him once where he was going for the weekend...he said he thought China....gotta get this dry humor.....STS LOOS FOR ALL 😭🐼*

luana swiss - October 07, 2021 at 10:58 PM



“ *Mr. Smith was my 5th grade teacher 1966-67. He simply brought out the best in every students. He was involved with the community in many ways. I enjoyed speaking with him, and I never had a bad day in his class. He spoke to you as a person, never spoke down to you, had a wonderful sense of humor, and was genuinely interested in you. Teaching and the world have lost a great human.*

Marc Felizzi - October 07, 2021 at 04:33 PM

BJ

“ I had Mr Smith for 6th grade. I think he inspired us to learn and he made it fun. Being a a young boy, I was more interested in athletics etc., however he made learning fun. He talked about being a graduate of Girard College and playing soccer. He actually started a soccer team in the school. He managed to get uniforms and scheduled several games. One of which I remember was playing at Cranberry. We did not have a Gym so we used to go down in the basement to change into our uniforms. He taught us the game and often spoke of playing in college. We would practice during play period which was a great use of that time.
We went to NBC the next year which did not have a soccer team at that time which was disappointing. I think he was one of the best teachers at Springfield in my opinion. He had a lasting influence on a lot students. He did Springfield a huge service by teaching so many years.

Bill Pettit Jr. DVM

Bill Pettit Jr - October 07, 2021 at 07:30 AM

LP

*Very well said!! He certainly sparked an interest in me also to get involved in sports. I also remember he would take us to Jobstown church hall to play basketball!!All the teachers loved him too!! So much that one Halloween we pranked John back for all him fun shenanigans he pulled on us.... All the teachers had a John Smith mask, jingled coins in their pockets and dressed like him!
He was shocked!! Loved that man... he was my teacher and comrade!*

Linda Pastore - October 08, 2021 at 11:12 AM



“ I had Mr. Smith for 5th and 6th grade in the 60's. He brought soccer to our elementary school, something we never had before. I loved it. He was a great teacher, I remember being so happy when I learned that I would have him again in 6th grade after having him the year before. I went back to see him once after I had gotten out of HS and was surprised he remembered me. What a great man.. so many memories. He will be greatly missed.

Sandra Yamazaki-Regn - October 06, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ Mr. Smith was my 5th grade teacher in 1964. He was the best teacher I ever had. He brought in a record player & played Bill Cosby. Always talked about Scranton & how school teachers didn't make money. We laughed & laughed, he made learning fun. Rest In Peace Mr. Smith with our Heavenly Father.

Joyce Lounsberry Kowal - October 06, 2021 at 07:23 PM



Mr. Smith was my 5th grade teacher. He was well liked by his students and he would play soccer with us, he loved this game we never heard of and wanted us all to learn and play this global game. Goal, Mr. Smith play on.

Deborah Kauffman - October 07, 2021 at 05:29 PM



As a close friend of Barbara for the last fifty years, I knew John quite well also. We shared many good times and I have heard many of John's stories. But my favorite memory of John will always be a time that I ran into him in the grocery store, a favorite haunt of his. We talked for a few minutes when all of a sudden he was spotted by several of his students who surrounded him. They could not have been happier and treated him as a celebrity. His students absolutely loved him. John loved being around people and he loved to entertain them.

Carol Townsend - October 13, 2021 at 08:00 PM

KL

One of the first people who stopped at our home when we moved to Mount Holly in 1982. Saw him most everyday walking , smiling and greeting everyone. Always with the gift of gab o a joke to be told! Our condolences to Barbara Amy and Cynda. John and Karen Laraway

Karen Huwar Laraway - October 23, 2021 at 03:13 PM