



## Ronald Tyler Smith

December 12, 1938 - May 18, 2022

Ronald Tyler Smith, 83, passed from this life on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Ronald was born on December 12th, 1938, to Ralph Tyler and Nola Thelma Smith in Belton, Texas. His childhood was spent in Belton alongside his older sister, Charley, where he went to elementary and middle school and was a 1956 graduate of Belton High School.

Ronald then attended Texas A&M University. He was a member of the "Fightin' Texas Aggie Band" where he played the baritone. He graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy.

During his college years, Ronald married his high school sweetheart, Jonita Moore

Smith. In the years that followed, Ronald and Jonita had three children: Ronald Tyler Smith Jr., Sherri Smith, and Joanne Smith (Crawford). Jonita passed at the young age of 40 due to leukemia.

Ronald was always so proud to be a Texas A&M Aggie. When his children were young, he loved taking them to the Aggie football games, including Yell Practice by the Aggie bonfire, and taught them the Aggie War hymn that they would all sing. Ronald would always make sure everyone had a new A&M shirt before leaving the games. Even in his later years, he was still so proud to be an A&M Aggie and was always eager to tell everyone he encountered that he was an Aggie. He enjoyed watching Texas A&M football games on TV as well and loved anything that had the A&M logo on it-- from hats and shirts to car stickers and even a pumpkin that had a Texas A&M logo on it that he gave

his youngest grandson, Luke, this past fall.

Upon graduating from Texas, A&M University, Ronald enlisted in the Army National Guard of Texas amid the Vietnam War. Although he was not selected to serve in the Vietnam War, Ronald was prepared to serve his country proudly.

In 1978, Ronald married his second wife, Dorothy Savage. Although their marriage was short-lived, together they had one son, Ralph H. Smith, in 1979. Ronald worked for many years in agricultural chemical sales, later working for the company Griffin & Brand of McAllen, Texas. Working for Griffin & Brand gave Ronald the opportunity to work abroad as an agronomist. He worked in Tampico, Mexico for 17 years, El Salvador for a few months, and Guatemala for one year, where he met Raquel Echeverria Zambrano, who would later become his wife of 35 years.

After working in Guatemala for one year, Ronald and Raquel got married in March of 1987 and moved to Roswell, New Mexico where Ronald was in charge of the onion farming operation for the company Meal Makers.

In 1990, Ronald and Raquel welcomed their daughter, Kathy M. Smith (Blount) in Roswell, NM.

A few years later, Ronald began working for Griffin & Brand of Hereford, Texas, where he worked alongside local ranchers in Dexter, NM, Hagerman, NM, and Roswell, NM to produce and manufacture onions and green peppers for the company. Many farmers knew Ronald as "the bug man" as he turned many failing crops into a success.

In 2004, Ronald retired from Griffin & Brand. However, he did not enjoy sitting around the house as much as he thought he would. It was because of this that in 2005, Ronald decided that he wanted to stay busy and feel productive and began working at the Roswell Walmart in the Lawn & Garden department, which suited his interests very well given his long career in Agronomy. Ronald worked there until 2017, when he decided to stop working.

When Ronald was not working, he enjoyed spending time outdoors with his youngest daughter, Kathy, during her childhood. He thoroughly enjoyed

teaching her how to grow tomatoes but most of all, he loved riding his bicycle with her for miles at a time. He enjoyed telling people how much he loved riding his bicycle with her and even in his later years, would attempt to ride his bicycle any chance he could.

Preceded: Ronald was preceded in passing by his older sister, Charley Samuels, and their parents: Ralph Tyler and Nola Thelma Smith.

Survivors: Ronald is survived by his wife of 35 years: Raquel E. Smith; Ronald T.

Smith, Jr. (son); Sherri Smith (daughter); Joanne Crawford (daughter); Ralph H, Smith (son); and Kathy Blount (daughter) and her husband, Daniel Blount.

Ronald is also survived by his three granddaughters: Ashlie Walpole, Leigha James, Emerson Smith, and two grandsons: Drake Nelson and Luke Blount.

A private service will be held when Ronald's cremated remains are placed in a columbarium at the General Douglas L. McBride Veteran's Cemetery.

Please take a moment and share a kind thought or memory with Ronald's family at [andersonbethany.com](http://andersonbethany.com).

Ronald's tribute was lovingly written in his honor by his family.

# Tribute Wall



“ Still thinking often of my Uncle Ronald and his going to be with God, our heavenly Father. I still fondly remember seeing him out in the onion fields in McAllen Texas and seeing my cousins JoJo, Sherri and Ronnie and would love to here from them or any of my other cousins, aunt or other relatives or friends. God bless and keep you all. christopherhowardstruth@protonmail.com or 332.200.2275 is my contact info. I'm currently living in NYC and if any family or friends found themselves up this way your welcome to use my apartment. My place isn't big but it's brand new and I got an incredible view.

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**Christopher Howard Samuels** - February 05, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *Ronald Tyler Smith*

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December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM

CS

“ Ronald was my Uncle and while it has been decades since we spoke I'll always have fond and loving memories of his love for his Family, our Mother Earth whose he so loving worked his entire life, his laughter and incredible sense of humor. I also remember the strong bond he had with his sister ( my Mother ) Charlseyl Neil that helped them both through some of life's difficult periods and her loving affection for her younger brother. They were a pair that were both able to get a glass of lemon juice ( onion, tomato or otherwise) from life and make lemonade. While I had lost track of my Uncle as an adult I would love to speak to anyone from the Family whom I knew and meet as a child my cousins, JoJo, Sherri or Ronnie or please to just to speak to anyone to share my condolences and get caught up with the Family from my Mother's side who I've in effect since her death I'm 2004 been cut off from. Ronald was a great great man in so ALL-ways, who will always have God's blessings and my admiration and TRUE LOVE from myself and so many others.

Please contact me at [christopherhowardstruth@protonmail.com](mailto:christopherhowardstruth@protonmail.com) or 917.476.4454

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**Christopher Howard(dueSing)Smith Samuels** - October 10, 2022 at 04:15 PM

CS

Update phone 332.200.2275 is my new number. Best. Love.  
Christopher

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**Christopher Samuels** - December 24, 2022 at 05:51 PM

BF

“ Ronald was one of my best friends starting in jr high school. We rode horses and did everything together. I will miss him very much.

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**Bob Fulwiler** - June 25, 2022 at 10:59 AM

CS

*My name is Christopher Howard dueSing and I am the surviving son of Uncle Ronald as Charley Neil is my Mother. Please reach out to me as I had recently been thinking so much of my Uncle Ronald as he is the only surviving relative of his and my Mother's generation whom I knew. I do so remember how incredible infectious laughter and his love for family. If anyone could please reach out to me I'm at a time in my life at 53 that family is so important and have been without my beloved Mother since 2004 when she passed. My desire is to rekindle some family connections as those bonds I lost with the death of my Mother and then my Father Jack H. Samuels, who I know also adored Uncle Ronald and am sure who along with my Mother are enjoying Uncle Ronald's company in the Heavens. I can be reached at 917.476.4454 or christopherhowardstruth@protonmail.com*

*I know there is an incredible afterlife for us all based on our measure in this world and Uncle Ronald is tops!!! Along with all my Belton and McAllen family that have never been far from my heart.*

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**Christopher Howard dueSing Smith-Samuels** - October 08, 2022 at 06:32 PM

CS

*My goodness gracious in so much as I do remember my Grandfather Captain Ralph T. Smith from what my Mother has shared and believe it was his project in Southern Florida that was being built to intervene Nazi and Axis collaborators in the Southern Atlantic. I failed to fully correctly identify myself as Christopher Howard. ( dueSing) Smith Samuels. While I'm so sorry for the families loss I'm in the habit of sending those that have passed to the other side my love through the Holy Spirit and send my love to family still living using both that and the phone or computer. I really would love to reconnect with my Mother Charley Nell's people. While I'm deeply mourned by my Uncle Ronald's death I'm hoping to use his passing as a way to reconnect with Family. Again my contact is 917.476.4454 or christopherhowardstruth@protonmail.com I'm currently living in NYC.*

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**Christopher Howard dueSing Smith-Samuels** - October 08, 2022 at 07:10 PM



“ *Rest In Peace Ron. Great friend and neighbor. We will always remember you!*

*Hector & Heidi Pineda*

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**Hector Pineda** - June 14, 2022 at 07:22 AM

AP

“ *Thank you for sharing Ron's story. He was a man full of stories. One of which he loved to remind us of: "I almost died the times in Guatemala!"*

*Keep on loving those stories... Much love.*

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**Apple** - June 13, 2022 at 08:42 PM

CS

*My name is Christopher Howard dueSing and I am the surviving son of Uncle Ronald as Charley Neil is my Mother. Please reach out to me as I had recently been thinking so much of my Uncle Ronald as he is the only surviving relative of his and my Mother's generation whom I knew. I do so remember how incredible infectious laughter and his love for family. If anyone could please reach out to me I'm at a time in my life at 53 that family is so important and have been without my beloved Mother since 2004 when she passed. My desire is to rekindle some family connections as those bonds I lost with the death of my Mother and then my Father Jack H. Samuels, who I know also adored Uncle Ronald and am sure who along with my Mother are enjoying Uncle Ronald's company in the Heavens. I can be reached at 917.476.4454 or christopherhowardstruth@protonmail.com*

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**Christopher Howard dueSing Smith-Samuels** - October 08, 2022 at 07:23 PM