



J.D. Smith

October 21, 1921 - December 20, 2005

J.D. Smith, 84 year-old resident of Gentry, Arkansas, died December 20, 2005, at Washington Regional Hospital, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Born October 21, 1921 in Rowell, Arkansas, he was the son of W.R. Smith and Clara Thornton Smith. He was first elected to the Gentry City Council in 1955 and served for 15 years. He returned to the City Council in 1983 and served through 1986 when he was elected mayor. He was again elected to the City Council in 1997 and was chairman of the Finance Committee and member of the Water and Wastewater Committee. He was employed by the Benton County Assessor's Office for 5 years. He was named Alderman of the Year for the State of Arkansas and was named Citizen of the Year by the Gentry Chamber of Commerce. He was an active member of the Gentry Lion's Club for 41 years and has the distinction of having perfect attendance for all those years. He served the organization in many capacities, most recently as the President. He was also an active member of the American Legion Post #159 having served in World War II. He was a member of the United States Army and was one of the select few survivors of Normandy on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Throughout the years, he served in various organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Gentry Public Schools, the United Methodist Church and various community groups. He was preceded in death by his wife Maxine Ratcliff in 2000; and two brothers. Survivors include one daughter Clara Joyce Smith Garrett of Gentry, Arkansas; two grandsons, Matthew Garrett of Paragould, Arkansas and Denny Garrett of North Little Rock, Arkansas; one

sister Gertie Phelps of Mena, Arkansas. Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 22, 2005, at Gentry United Methodist Church, Gentry, Arkansas, with Lonnie Nelson and Brad Wright officiating. Burial will follow at Gentry Cemetery, Gentry, Arkansas. Visitation will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wed., Dec. 21, 2005, at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gentry United Methodist Church Building Fund, Gentry, Arkansas.

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ We send our deepest sympathy and sorry for your loss. May God Bless each and everyone of you. I am sending this for my dad. Your dad J.D. is me dad's first cousins on his mom's side. My grandmother was Jimmie Smith married Thmas Lucas Lewis. My dad was so shocked when he read of J.D.'s death he read the Obituarie in the Cleveland Hearald paper. He would like to contact Gertie. dad said, it has been a long time and he had no Idea of where everyone lived . You can e-amil us if you wish. Once again our deepest sympathy.

Dewell Lewis (Nick) & Betty Ann Lewis Brehm

ronald and sandra johnston - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

FF

“ Scanning through this web site catching me by surprise when I see the name J.D. Smith, thinking it can't be the same one. I remember J.D. as a very pleasant person, I met him through renting the Post Legion Building in Gentry. He was always upbeat and I enjoyed his company when I would visit with him. I appreciate the chance I had to know him even though it was just short while. He was a very nice person.

Flora Forrest

Flora Forrest - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

DM

“ Clara Joyce~We were saddened to hear of the loss of your father. You are in our prayers. May God bless and keep you during this time.

Donnie and Sandy Millsap - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

DS

“ Dear Clara Joyce,
Your dad brightened my day whenever you two visited the grocery store in Gentry. He was one of those remarkable people who never met a stranger. I didn't know him very long, but I won't soon forget sunny, funny J.D.
My sincere condolences to you and your sons.
Donna Schwartz

Donna Schwartz - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

AN

“ Clara and Family
Please accept our heart felt sympathy at the loss of your dad and grandfather.
J.D. was a very special man and city ambassador. We always loved to hear his stories and learn from his wealth of knowledge. We will miss his "how do" and wave at the post office. Fond memories all around. God grant you peace in the days ahead.
Andy & DeNese Newbill

Andy Newbill - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

HW

“ Uncle J.D. will be greatly missed. He was the keeper of the stories of the Smith family. I wished I had written down some of those stories he would tell and we would listen but not every thinking that he would not always be here to tell them.

Clara, Matthew and Danny -- remember the good times. There were lots.

Johnita

Ham and Johnita Waddle - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

MG

“ I remember J.D. with fondness from our days at the assessor's office. He earned respect because he was always a gentleman.

Condolences to his family. Take solace knowing that his many friends and acquaintances retain many good memories of him.

Midge Garza - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

TD

“ We are very sorry to here about the passing of J. D. We enjoyed seeing him and his teasing Cheryl when he came into the grocery store in Gentry while we were working there. He was a very good person and he will be missed. Our hearts and prayers go out yo your family

Tami Dean - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

TE

“ Clara Joyce, Marla and I were very saddened to hear about J.D.'s passing. I remember back in the old days his service on the City Council and as Mayor. He left a good legacy in the City of Gentry. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Terry England - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

BW

“ Clara Joyce -
Our friendship has been strengthened by the friendship our parents established before you and I were born. And, you and I have experienced our "only child" gift together. Your mother and I shared our Uncle Clarence Ratcliff from both the Ratcliff and Taylor family trees. I have always felt as though we were "blood-relatives." We have so many memories of visiting with you and your parents at various activities - from weddings and anniversary receptions to funerals of family and friends. And, there were the visits when your family would come to our Barnett's Dairyette! Your father's smile, sense of humor, and stories will forever live in our hearts. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you and grant you peace in His Time.

Brad Wright - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

BR

“ Clara Joyce -
Bill and I are sorry to hear about J.D.'s passing. We are out of state for the Christmas holidays and are unable to attend the services but we will keep you in our prayers.

Bill and Judy Rife

Bill and Judy Rife - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

JM

“ *I will truly miss J.D. He was so good to family-the close and the distant branches. I'll remember his stories. He always attended the World War II reunions of his buddies. That required commitment and caring. I hope that Clara Joyce is able to carry on with the garden. Even though I can't attend the services I will be thinking of Clara Joyce and her family.*

Jean Ann Moles - September 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM