



Ben Smith,

February 29, 1924 - January 16, 2013

Ben Smith, Jr. age 88, of Knoxville passed away Sunday evening January 13, 2013, at the Hospice Comfort House of Pella, Iowa. Ben was born in rural Bussey, Iowa on February 29, 1924, the son of Ben and Irene (Jones) Smith. He grew up around Bussey and graduated from Bussey High School. After high school Ben attended and graduated from aircraft school. After aircraft school Ben and Thelma Maxine Shaffer were united in marriage on August 29, 1942, in Las Vegas, Nevada. They shared over 70 years of marriage together, before Ben's passing and were blessed with two sons: Ben III and Richard Paul. Ben and Thelma lived in California where Ben was employed with Lockheed Aircraft in Los Angeles. During his employment at Lockheed he was drafted and served in the Army Air Corp during WWII. He served his country from 1943 to 1945, stationed mainly in the Philippines. After his service Ben and Thelma moved back to Iowa and lived in Knoxville since 1945. Ben was a very active and good businessman. He founded and operated the Modern Cleaners in Knoxville. Later owned and operated Ben's Buick Car Dealership; was a Skellgas franchise owner; worked for O'Dey Finance of Des Moines; and finished his business career building and operating Laundromats in Chariton and Knoxville. Ben was also active with his hobbies in life. He especially enjoyed golf; he owned and flew an airplane for many years; liked boating, riding motorcycles, classic cars; and later in life restoring antique bicycles. He especially loved entertaining his grandchildren. Ben was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the American Legion Baty-Tucker Post # 168 and the V.F.W. John Myers Post # 3519 all of Knoxville. He is survived by his wife Thelma Smith of Knoxville; their two sons, Ben "Sonny" Smith III and wife Sharon of Pella and Richard P. Smith of Farmington, MO; one daughter-in-law, Jacquelyn Smith of St. Peter's, MO; four grandchildren, Holly (Bradley) Rietveld, Nicole (Ty) Comstock, James Ross (Shanny) Smith and Kristina (Charles) LaTurno; and eight great grandchildren. Ben is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Ben was preceded by his parents; and two sisters, Arloise Dodds and Olive Snyder. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2013, at the Winfield Funeral Home of Knoxville with Rev. Brent Hanna officiating. Burial with military honors will follow services at Graceland Cemetery of Knoxville. Visitation for Ben will be held from 1:00 p.m. until service time also on Wednesday, January 16th, at the Winfield Funeral Home, with

Ben's family present. A memorial in Ben's memory has been established to the Hospice Comfort House of Pella or the Marion County Humane Society. Condolences may be sent to <http://www.winfieldfh.com>.

Comments



“ I only once had a brief interaction with my Great Uncle Ben, when I was small kid in Dallas, but from what I remember hearing from my grandmother (Arloise) and my mother (Kelly) that Ben was a man (like many in our family) that was ahead of his time. In talking to my Mother this morning, and reading Ben's obituary I'm left for a loss of words for how much Ben had a thirst for life. He is an inspiration for all of his contemporaries today as to how much one person can accomplish in the profoundly limited amount of time we have been blessed with to spend on this "tiny pale blue dot" called Earth. Ben's life is even more extraordinary when I recall the Arloise's stories of living on the farm with no running water, electricity, or direct communication to the outside world other than a battery powered radio for the occasional listening. Reflecting on this, I choose to view what Ben accomplished in his life with the profoundly limited resources he had to start with as encouragement for what we can do gain the most out of our own limited life experiences.

Michael Meaney - January 15, 2013 at 05:11 PM



“ My thoughts and many hugs are with all of you. You are a close family and your faith will get you through.
Love Diane

Diane Tondo - January 14, 2013 at 10:39 PM



“ Uncle Ben will be deeply missed. He was a man with an infectious laugh and full of life. He leaves behind a legacy of wonderful childhood memories of visiting he & Thelma in the summertime. He was the patriarch of a great family one I am proud to be associated with.

Our thoughts, prayers & heartfelt sympathy are with Thelma & the family right now.

With Love,
Ted & Kelly Vinci
& Michael & Michelle Meaney

kelly dodds vinci - January 14, 2013 at 07:02 PM