



Mr. Etcyl D. Smith

June 12, 1933 - October 1, 2019

Etcyl Dee Smith, a lifelong resident of Willow Springs, passed away Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at Willow Care Nursing Home. He was 86 years old.

Etcyl was born June 12, 1933, in Willow Springs, MO, to Hazel Verne (Miner) Smith and Millard Howard Smith. He grew up in Willow Springs and as an adult lived briefly in Chicago before returning to his hometown to raise his family and run Smith Insurance Agency, which had been established by his father. After retiring from the agency, he greatly enjoyed traveling throughout Missouri to teach insurance licensing courses.

Etcyl was active throughout his life in many civic and arts organizations. He served as president of the Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce and was a founder of the Willow Springs Development Corp., where he also served as president. He was also an active member of the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Willow Springs Country Club, and he was recently honored as a 50-year member of Ingomar Lodge #536 of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Missouri.

His contributions to the community included serving with the Salvation Army, where he was a community point of contact for those needing financial assistance. He had a wide range of interests and a passion for reading about and discussing philosophy, art, politics, music, and theater. He played roles in many community theater productions over the years and put a high priority on teaching his daughters about the arts and sciences, even when that meant a four- or eight-hour drive to St. Louis or Chicago to attend plays and visit

museums.

Etcyl had a soft spot for animals and took in many dogs and cats over the years. Other passions included classical music, opera, golfing, bicycling, photography, and traveling. He earned a pilot's license in early adulthood and was interested in all things related to aviation. He especially loved traveling the back highways of his native Ozarks and exploring springs, rivers, and hiking trails.

Etcyl was preceded in death by his parents; his siblings, Joy Sharp, Howard Smith, and Carol Kay Murrow; and longtime partner Sandra Archer.

He is survived by his daughters, Sarah Nessel and Julie Smith; his former wife, Lorene Smith; and several nephews and a niece.

A graveside service for Etcyl will be held Friday, October 4, 2019, at 10:00 A.M. at the Nease Cemetery with Brother Royce Wheeler of the Robert Burns Masonic Lodge of Gainesville, MO officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army or the Humane Society. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home, LLC. Online condolences may be left at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Graveside Funeral Service

OCT 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

Nease Cemetery
County Road 1070
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Tribute Wall

KR

“ *Etcyl was my insurance man for many year while I lived in Willow Springs. So Sorry To Here Of His Passing. Prayers Sent To His Family.*



Karen Lynn Riley - October 06, 2019 at 01:26 PM

CT

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Chuck Todd - October 04, 2019 at 04:19 AM

LH

“ *Etcyl was my dad's insurance agent when we first came to Willow Springs almost 50 year ago. I worked at Bailey Pontiac in the 80s and 90s and interacted with Etcyl frequently at the garage and in his office. I liked Etcyl and although it's been many years since I last saw him, I will miss him. My condolences to his family.*
Leroy Holdt



Leroy Holdt - October 03, 2019 at 11:43 PM

AP

My favorite memory of Etcyl D. is his help while my family was in a funeral. He retrieved keys mistakenly locked in our car. I shall never forget his kindness. Anita Pennington

Anita Pennington - October 26, 2019 at 12:31 PM

MC

“ *May Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Etcyl D. Smith*



May Cunningham - October 03, 2019 at 07:05 PM

SH

“ *Sue Hedrick lit a candle in memory of Mr. Etcyl D. Smith*



sue Hedrick - October 02, 2019 at 06:54 PM

SH

Ethyl was a good man, he had our insurance forever, he was always good to us and was friendly and a happy guy. He will be missed.

sue Hedrick - October 02, 2019 at 06:54 PM

MH

i was sad to hear of Etcyl's passing. He managed our insurance for Rural Disposal all the years we were in business. He gave the best Christmas presents each year...you knew he always put a lot of thought into his selections. I don't think I ever passed him on the street that he didn't have a kind word to say. He was a good man who cared about his clients and his hometown community. My prayers go out to his family during this time of loss.

Martha Holloway - October 03, 2019 at 06:55 AM

JS

Years ago a friend, Jimmy Ledbetter, called Etcyl "a small town intellectual." Others recognized him as a "City Father" for Willow Springs. He earned those titles. Etcyl's family was intertwined with mine. He was a friend and classmate of my older brother, Orval. I was a classmate of his younger sister, Carol Kay. My oldest brother, George, was a classmate of his older brother, Howard. Etcyl was a groomsman in our wedding. I will remember and miss conversations with Etcyl. Joe Shryock

Joe Shryock - October 03, 2019 at 07:36 PM