



Dr. Terrill Dean Smith

December 3, 1931 - July 27, 2021

Dr. Terrill Dean Smith, age 89, of San Antonio, TX passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. He was born in Dillwyn, KS on December 3, 1931, the son of Lena Pearl and Henry Warren Smith.

In his early years Terry lived with his family in Shattuck, OK where he attended secondary school. He was passionate about learning and education and decided to make chemistry his field of expertise. He attained a B.S in chemistry from the University of Oklahoma in 1953, an M.S. in chemistry from the University of Maryland in 1957, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis in 1959. He was also passionate about music, especially classical and vocal, and met his future wife Nancy singing in the choir at the Central Presbyterian Church in Clayton, MO. They were married in 1957 and lived in Webster Groves, MO where Terry worked at both McDonnell Douglas and Monsanto corporations. It was there that Terry became a lifelong fan of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, and he wore his Cardinals “bucket hat” with pride for the rest of his life.

In 1962, through the services of the Children’s Home Society of Missouri (now Family Forward), Terry and Nancy adopted their first child, a boy named Jeffrey, and soon afterwards moved to a house in Kirkwood, MO. In 1965 they adopted a girl named Jennifer, who was the apple of Terry’s eye. He was a loving father who taught his children about his fondness for learning, music,

laughter, and kindness. In 1968, Terry and his family moved to Edmond, OK where he became a professor of chemistry at Central State College. Both Terry and Nancy continued their love of music and sang in the choir together at both the First Methodist and First Presbyterian churches in Edmond. Terry also played the ukulele, which he taught to Jeff, and the whole family would play and sing together as entertainment for the residents at local senior homes.

Terry loved the outdoors, especially camping and canoeing, and he shared that with his whole family. He was an active member of the OKCanoers club, and served as its president twice. He and his family owned two canoes and often floated the Current and Jacks Fork rivers of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways of Missouri, and visited the beautiful Alley Spring and Alley Mill. Sharing that with he and Nancy is one of Jeff's and Jennifer's favorite childhood memories. Terry not only enjoyed the wonderful nature the U.S. has to offer, he also gave back by generously donating to U.S. National Park Service throughout his life. He was very active in other ways as well, and especially loved snow skiing with Jennifer and his students. He was also an avid tennis player, and participated in a tennis league into his 80s.

Terry's career in education was very successful, and he helped Central State College become Central State University and eventually the University of Central Oklahoma. He rose to become the Chairman of the Department of Chemistry, and remained a professor emeritus after his retirement in 1997. He introduced the first Forensic Chemistry curriculum and degree program at UCO, which eventually led to the establishment of the UCO Forensic Science Institute. Terry loved to share chemistry with his students and faculty, and actively participated in the UCO chemistry club, for which he hosted annual shrimp boil events at his home. He was an active member of the American Chemical Society and the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Societies, and continued to support them well after his retirement.

Terry and Nancy moved to San Antonio, TX in 2002, into a house in the Hart Ranch neighborhood near Jennifer's home, and within a short driving distance of Jeff in Austin. He continued his interest in chemistry by making friends at the nearby University of Texas at San Antonio, where he volunteered to help the faculty and kept up with his research. He also continued sharing with the local students, and was known to hang out at the nearby Starbucks and help them with their homework. Terry enjoyed being near his daughter Jennifer and her wife Sherri, and was thrilled to help them with their small business by delivering donuts and anything else he could do to help. He also enjoyed being near Jeff and his children, and looked forward to every chance he had to see his granddaughter Chelsea and his grandsons Ryan and Connor.

Terry loved his neighbors and his neighborhood, and served as president of the Hart Ranch Homeowners Association. He was famous for his evening walks through the neighborhood, and really took the time to talk to and get to know his neighbors, many of which became his friends. After Nancy's death, his neighbors were especially helpful and friendly, and always made sure he knew they were there for him. He loved sharing Friday night dinner and Irish coffees with Jennifer and Sherri, and their pictures together became a favorite on Jennifer's Facebook page. He also loved spending Christmas with Jeff, his wife Ellen and his grandchildren in Austin, where fondue was a family favorite.

Throughout his life, Terry never had an unkind thing to say about anyone, and believed in loving unconditionally, things he passed on to his children and grandchildren. He accepted everyone for who they were, and believed in equality and compassion for those less fortunate, long before it was broadly expected to do so. He loved to laugh and make others laugh, and was able to laugh at himself as much as with others. He taught Jeff and Jennifer to be proud of who they were and what they believed, and to remember that

integrity and kindness were characteristics to be cherished. He will always be remembered for his love of knowledge, and for sharing it so generously throughout his life.

Terry was preceded in death by his wife Nancy Ann Smith in 2018, and brother Warren Smith of Edmond, OK in 2016. He is survived by his son Jeffrey Smith and his wife Ellen Westerhoff of Austin, TX; daughter Jennifer Smith and her wife Sherri Lemons of San Antonio, TX; grandchildren Chelsea, Ryan, and Connor Smith of Austin, TX; and sister Jonet Dawson of Ponca City, OK.

Donations in Terry's memory should be made to either Family Forward (www.familyforwardmo.org/get-involved/donate), 1167 Corporate Lake Drive, St. Louis, MO 63132-1716, or the U.S. National Park Service (www.nps.gov/getinvolved/donate.htm).

Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dr. Terrill Dean Smith.



August 25, 2021 at 12:23 PM



“ We have so many wonderful memories of Terry & Nancy! They were always a delight to be with. We had a lot of fun together when they came for a visit several years ago from their Hart Ranch neighborhood to our Hart Ranch in Paradox, Colorado. We spent lots of time hiking around our place & having picnics up in the surrounding cliffs. Terry was one of the wittiest person I've ever met. His humor was always genuinely gentle & funny. I remember his comment about a girl he was interested in when he was an undergraduate-the most important thing was how big her boyfriend was. I'd hoped we'd have more visits. It was not to be. I'll always be very grateful for the times we had together.

David & Karen Hart

David M. Hart - August 25, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ Mission Park North lit a candle in memory of Dr. Terrill Dean Smith



Mission Park North - August 22, 2021 at 09:34 PM