



Max Smith

August 30, 1932 - May 19, 2025

Lt. Col. Max Edward Smith

August 30, 1932 - May 19, 2025

Max Edward Smith was born on Tuesday, August 30, 1932 at his home in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma to Truman and Bessie (Wilson) Smith. He graduated from Broken Arrow High School on May 19, 1950. Seventy-five years later on the same day, Max finished the course of this earthly life and graduated into eternal life with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After high school Max attended the University of Oklahoma and was a member of the Air Force ROTC. He graduated from OU in 1954 and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. Max married Judy Ross of Broken Arrow on March 16, 1963. Their marriage of 62 years was filled with love and adventure, living in Alabama, California, Maine, Texas, Florida, and Louisiana before returning to Broken Arrow in 1976. Max flew B-47s and B-52s during the Cold War, Cuban Missile Crisis, and Vietnam. He was the Senior Duty officer at the Tactical Control Center while in Viet Nam, flying over 75 missions. He received the Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters and received a First Class Medal of Honor from the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces for his cooperation and service during the war. Max was the Base Pistol Champion at Loring Air Force Base. A distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, Max served as the Air Force representative to the Army Air Defence Command and Staff College at Fort Bliss, Texas. Max retired from the Air Force after 22 years of

service and returned to Broken Arrow to raise his family and invest in his community. In doing so Max completed his Master of School Administration at the University of Tulsa and began a second career in school administration serving as Assistant Principal of Sequoyah Middle School, Principal of the South Intermediate High School, and retired as the Principal of the Broken Arrow High School. He was a leader and mentor for many of his students, faculty, and staff. He continued to serve Broken Arrow Schools as a member of the School Board for 10 years, including two years as the Board Chair. Max also served Broken Arrow through his leadership with the Civitans Club, Broken Arrow Historical Society and was named the Volunteer of the Year by the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce in 2004. Max's greatest legacy was as a husband, father, grandfather and in the relationships he nurtured. He offered an authentic and persevering witness as a disciple of Jesus, laying a foundation of faith for his family and others. Max was a member of the Arrow Heights Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, teacher, and on various leadership committees. His listening ear, wise counsel, and generosity enriched the lives of many in his church, his community, and family. Max and Judy were long-time season ticket holders to OU football games and enjoyed traveling to away games when possible. Their travels took them to Europe, Central America, Alaska, and several trips to Hawaii. Max enjoyed his Sunday afternoon drives and eating out at new and fine dining establishments. He enjoyed traveling with and supporting his grandchildren in their sports and activities. And in these last years he welcomed the next generation of great-grandchildren into the family. Those left to build upon his legacy are his wife, Judy of Broken Arrow; son Wade (Gay) of Norman; daughter Darci Delso (Dusty) of Broken Arrow; grandchildren Danielle Moses (Josh), Dylan Delso, Morgan Tovar (Tim), Diandra Delso, Jennifer Smith, Alyssa Smith, and Wilson Smith; great-grandchildren, Vivienne, Elizabeth, Madeleine, and Theodore. Those who have gone before him into eternity include his parents, Truman and Bessie; his sister Patty Crawford (Wayne) and nephew, Ricky.

In lieu of flowers the family invites you to offer a memorial gift to the Max Smith Leadership Scholarship (Checks can be made out to Broken Arrow Public Schools and mailed to the Education Service Center to the attention of the Treasurer with “Max Smith Scholarship” in the memo line.) or to the Smith-Delso Baseball Foundation (smithdelso.org/donation).

Cemetery Details

Park Grove Cemetery

1000 W. Houston St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 259-8691

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 22. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

MAY 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

MAY **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Arrow Heights Baptist Church
3201 S. Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Tribute Wall

JM

“ He was great person who help me so much back in 1983 we just Broken Arrow few months ago he drove me to hospital my mother have major stroke he did not tell me I felt something wrong and he understood why miss so much class time in 10th grade dealing my mother lost. Few years ago got opportunity be honor join me be honor in hall of fame because my father did not show up this event but Mr Smith did show up. That means so much to me



James Meadours - May 29, 2025 at 10:56 AM

SL

“ Scott, Allie, Benjamin and Luca planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Max Smith.

Scott, Allie, Benjamin and Luca - May 22, 2025 at 10:53 PM

SL

“ Scott, Allie, Benjamin and Luca purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Max Smith.



Scott, Allie, Benjamin and Luca - May 22, 2025 at 10:53 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *High Flight*



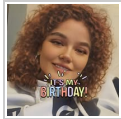
Hayhurst Funeral Home - May 22, 2025 at 11:49 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Pictorial Video Tribute*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - May 22, 2025 at 11:49 AM



🙏🤔😭🥹 will for ever miss you Max Smith I will always remember me coming in your office at school from getting into trouble. You will be Greatly missed 😭

Marcy Carroll - May 22, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ The Max Smith Family, sending prayers and thoughts to each of you. Principal Smith touched so many lives including my son and daughter during their education years in Broken Arrow. His life was well lived. His love for our Broken Arrow community and sharing of his Faith will be lasting memories for many. Kandie Fairchild

Kandie Fairchild - May 22, 2025 at 08:58 AM

MR

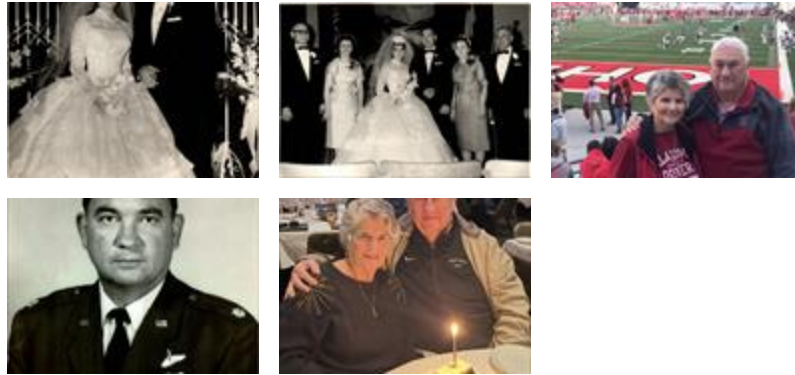
“ We are so sorry to here about the loss of Mr. Smith. Our family is sending the family love and prayers. We pray for comfort for you family during this time. Mr. Smith was truly a dedicated educator who influenced and worked with many people in my family. We will always hold dear the memories we have of him.

Love,
The Pendleys and The Reynolds

Milli Reynolds - May 21, 2025 at 03:17 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Hayhurst Funeral Home - May 21, 2025 at 01:16 PM

YF

“ Your loving nephew, Bobby and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Max Smith.

Your loving nephew, Bobby and family - May 21, 2025 at 01:14 PM

YF

“ Your loving nephew, Bobby and family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Max Smith.



Your loving nephew, Bobby and family - May 21, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JF

“ Jordan Schultz, Lori and Family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Max Smith.

Jordan Schultz, Lori and Family. - May 21, 2025 at 10:54 AM

JF

“ Jordan Schultz, Lori and Family. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Max Smith.



Jordan Schultz, Lori and Family. - May 21, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Max Smith.

May 20, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Max Smith.*



May 20, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ *Thank you for being a positive part of so many kids trying to find their wayfamu8 in life. Thank you. Prayers for Ms. Smith*



Tammi (VerHoef) Hausman - May 20, 2025 at 09:13 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Max Smith.*

May 19, 2025 at 08:25 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Max Smith.*



May 19, 2025 at 08:25 PM

RN

“ Robin Nipper lit a candle in memory of Max Smith



Robin Nipper - May 19, 2025 at 11:22 AM

HH

“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Smith family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Max.



Hayhurst Funeral Home - May 19, 2025 at 09:52 AM