



Fred Webster Smith

March 3, 1950 - January 15, 2026

Master Sergeant Fred Webster Smith, a devoted servant, educator, mentor, and community pillar, was born on March 3, 1950, in Bardstown, Kentucky, to the late Charles and Sallie Smith. In his early childhood, the Smith family relocated to Corydon, Indiana, where Fred's character, discipline, and leadership spirit began to take root.

Growing up in Corydon, Fred was deeply involved in his community through church activities, athletics, and youth programs. He was a standout student-athlete, playing football and distinguishing himself in track and field, where he broke a school track record—an early testament to his drive, determination, and physical excellence. He graduated from Corydon Central High School in 1969, carrying with him a strong sense of purpose and service.

Following graduation, Fred answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. As a proud Vietnam veteran, he devoted 24.5 years of honorable service to the nation, serving both domestically and abroad. Throughout his distinguished military career, he pursued continued education through the military and served in multiple critical roles, including Drill Instructor and Career Planner—positions of trust that shaped and influenced countless Marines. His exemplary service was recognized through numerous medals, badges, and ribbons, reflecting his professionalism, leadership, and unwavering commitment to duty.

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, Master Sergeant Smith seamlessly transitioned his military experience into education, dedicating himself to shaping young lives as a Navy JROTC instructor at Vanguard High School in Ocala, Florida. In addition to teaching, he coached football and track, instilling discipline, structure, confidence, and resilience in his students. Even after retiring from teaching, he remained actively involved with the track and field program, continuing to motivate and inspire athletes with his unmistakable “drill instructor voice” and commanding presence. His mission was clear: to build strong character, leadership, discipline, and lifelong confidence in every student he encountered.

Fred remained deeply engaged in the Ocala community through the Moose Lodge and various social and civic activities. Known affectionately as “Smitty,” he was a man who never met a stranger. His warmth, charisma, and gift for storytelling made him unforgettable to all who crossed his path. Family and friends were often captivated by his animated stories—shared over a good cigar—about his military service, motorcycle adventures, outdoor experiences, and travels. His laughter, voice, and presence filled every room, and his spirit left a lasting imprint on countless lives.

On January 15, 2026, Master Sergeant Fred Webster Smith received his wings.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Thomas Smith; his mother, Sallie Prue Smith; his sister, Hattie Marie Smith; and his beloved daughter, Tonesya Renee Smith.

He leaves to cherish his memory his son, Jattai Evan Smith of Statesboro, Georgia; his sister, Rhonda (Perry) Montgomery of Indianapolis, Indiana; nieces Brittini Strong of Alabama and Carmen Saunders of Indiana; nephews Richard (Elease) Smith of Indiana and Carlos Saunders of Indiana; and a host

of great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends. He also leaves behind his honorary brothers, Andrew (Amanda) Scott and Robert (Netta) Robinson, whose bonds of brotherhood reflected loyalty, respect, and lifelong friendship.

Master Sergeant Fred Webster Smith's legacy is one of service, leadership, mentorship, discipline, and love. His life stands as a testament to honor, integrity, and devotion—to family, to country, to community, and to every life he touched. His impact will continue through the generations he shaped, the students he inspired, and the family and friends who carry his memory forward.

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Ave
Bushnell, FL 33513-8914
(352) 793-7740

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 30. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Roberts of Ocala East Chapel
2739 SE Maricamp Rd.
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 732-9944

Graveside Service with Military Honors

JAN 30. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Ave
Bushnell, FL 33513-8914
(352) 793-7740

Tribute Wall



“ *Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations created a Webcast in memory of Fred Webster Smith* ”



Roberts

Downtown Chapel

With Gratitude and Compassion

Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations - January 29 at 03:13 PM

BC

“ I MET SMITTY THROUGH HIS EXTENDED FAMILY. PAMMY, BRANDY AND JOE. I FELT IMMEDIATELY AS THOUGH IVE KNOWN HIM MY WHOLE LIFE. HE WAS CERTAINLY A ENTERTAINING CHARACTER ALWAYS SEEKING LAUGHTER AND LIGHT. A GREAT CONVERSATIONALIST. HIS PASSION WAS OBVIOUSLY THE YOUTH THAT HE CONTINUED TO COUNSEL AND GUIDE THROUGH HIS SMITTY WAY... MY SON RARELY OPENS UP TO ANYONE, AND SMITTY HAD HIM TALING ABOUT THE FUTURE, SPORTS, FAST CARS AND LIFE IN GENERAL. THEY STAYED UP LONG AFTER I LEFT BECAUSE MY SON DIDNT WANT TO LEAVE. A SPECIAL MAN WHO HELD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MANY HEARTS. I HAVE NO DOUBT SMITTY HAS EARNED HIS WINGS AS HE CERTIANLY HAS TOUCHED MANY LIVES. REST EASY MASTER SERGEANT "SMITTY" .

PRAYER FOR ALL HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. MAY THE "SMITTY CHRONICALS" KEEP YOUR HEARTS WARM AND MEMORIES ALIVE. REMEMBER TO CRY NOT, BUT LAUGH ALOT! ITS THE SMITTY WAY.

BOBBIE J CARVER
WINTER HAVEN FLORIDA

BOBBIE J CARVER - January 29 at 02:39 PM

MA

“ Rest easy Unc! We have a few angels up there ready to embrace you! Love you always, your "lil Nee!"!



Mary - January 26 at 10:13 AM

MR

“ Mary R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fred Webster Smith.

Mary R. - January 26 at 10:06 AM

KM

“ Kandy Miller purchased the *Treasured Lilies Spray* for the family of Fred Webster Smith.



Kandy Miller - January 25 at 09:22 PM

KM

“ Kandy Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fred Webster Smith.

Kandy Miller - January 25 at 09:22 PM

VH

“ I went all through school in Corydon Indiana . Always nice and polite and had a distinct laugh. Rest in Peace Fred. You have served well.

Virginia Hamilton - January 25 at 10:53 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Fred Webster Smith.



January 24 at 08:55 AM

DA

“ Don Watson (DE) & Alice planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fred Webster Smith.

Don Watson (DE) & Alice - January 24 at 08:55 AM

MC

“ Master Sergeant instilled so much confidence in both our sons, Kristofer and Jack, during Vanguard Jr ROTC and at track. He made a lasting impression on them, as well as my wife Janie and I. His laugh, his voice and just his statue exuded confidence; his knowledge of how and what to say or even just a look, would inspire students to do the right thing, to work and train harder, and to make good decisions. Occasionally, after they graduated, over several decades, I would see him at events at the Marion County Veterans Memorial and he would remember me, ask how Kris and Jack were doing and their families. He truly cared about his students and that is a Blessed thing for any teacher/student relationship. I am honored that he was a part of my family's life.

Mark Clere - January 24 at 06:45 AM



“ I didn't know Smitty to well but, he always had a smile on his face and willing to help in any way you needed him. RIP my friend! Larry Johnston

Larry Johnston - January 23 at 09:34 PM

EC

“ *Elissa & Harry Clark lit a candle in memory of Fred Webster Smith*



Elissa & Harry Clark - January 23 at 09:06 PM

KR

“ *Kaylon Randolph lit a candle in memory of Fred Webster Smith*



Kaylon Randolph - January 23 at 08:51 PM

KR

“ *Huge impact on me as a teenager.. for that I am forever thankful. Rest well SGT. Smitty 🌸*

Kaylon Randolph - January 23 at 08:45 PM

HE

“ *Heather lit a candle in memory of Fred Webster Smith*



Heather - January 23 at 11:59 AM