



## Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD

August 11, 1935 - December 16, 2023

Stover Lester Smith, Jr., MD, age 88, passed away peacefully at his daughter's home in New Orleans, Louisiana on December 16, 2023. Dr. Smith (known affectionately as "Pops" to his children and grandchildren) was born on August 11, 1935 in Ellisville, Mississippi to Stover Lester Smith Sr. and Henrietta Easterling Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters Norma Ruth Reagan, Margie Nell Lycette, and Martha Christine Puckett; brother William Larry Smith; wife Clara Stephens Smith; and son Stroud Stover Smith. He is survived by his brother Thomas Gary Smith of Tyler, Texas; daughter Clara Stephenie Rudolf and her husband William B. Rudolf; son Stover Lester Smith III and his wife Amy Smith; grandchildren Farrell Diliberto (Alli), Elizabeth "Libby" Rudolf, William B. Rudolf, Jr., Stroud Rudolf, Briede Smith, and Laurel Smith; and great grandchild, Harris Diliberto.

Dr. Smith dedicated over five decades of his life to his remarkable career as a radiologist. After graduating from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in 1961, he completed an internship in internal medicine with the United States Air Force, where he achieved the rank of captain and was stationed in San Antonio, Texas and abroad in England and Italy. He then went on to complete his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation and his fellowship in Interventional Radiology at the University of Miami / Jackson Health System. While in Miami, he trained under the direction of Dr. Manuel Viamonte Jr., an internationally renowned

radiologist and a pioneer in the field of Interventional Radiology.

Dr. Smith then moved to New Orleans, where he practiced for over fifty years as one of the city's most beloved and well-respected radiologists. He was a founding member of the Mercy Baptist Radiology Group and served as chief of radiology at the Southern Baptist Hospital (now Ochsner Baptist). Dr. Smith was an active member in several professional medical societies, including the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), the American College of Radiology, the American Roentgen Ray Society, and the Orleans Parish Medical Society. Throughout his career, Dr. Smith was widely admired and adored by his colleagues and patients.

In his personal life, Dr. Smith was married to the love of his life and best friend, Clara, who he met on the golf course in Laurel, Mississippi. Married for nearly sixty years, they spent countless hours together working on their golf swings, watching Saints games, and dancing the night away. If he wasn't on the golf course with Clara and his grandson, Farrell, Dr. Smith was likely either traveling the world with his daughter, Stephenie, or with his family somewhere on the Mississippi Gulf Coast sipping on a glass of Kendall Jackson Chardonnay (or, as he would call it, "KJ"). He also enjoyed hunting and fishing with his son, Stover, and son-in-law, Will, spending time with his six grandkids, watching plays at Laurel Little Theatre, eating hot dogs and McDonalds egg McMuffins, getting lunch with his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Stephens Green ("Bette"), and making people split meals with him. Dr. Smith was the life of the party and always had a corny joke ready to make you laugh.

Dr. Smith was also heavily involved in both the Laurel and New Orleans communities. He was a member of Laurel Country Club, New Orleans Country Club, the Louisiana Club, and Laurel Rotary Club. He was an elder at St. Charles Presbyterian Church in New Orleans and First Presbyterian Church in Laurel and was a benefactor of Lauren Rogers Museum of Art by

donating part of his collection.

Visitation will be Thursday, December 21st at 1:00 PM at Memory Chapel Funeral Home, 3100 Audubon Drive, Laurel, MS 39440 followed by a graveside service at Lake Park Cemetery in Laurel at 2:00 PM.

To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 21. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapel laurel.com/>

## Graveside Service

DEC 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

Lake Park Cemetery  
1303 Old Bay Springs Rd  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Tribute Wall

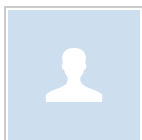


“ *Stover was a wonderful friend, father, grandfather and physician. Knowing his a special happening and sharing time with him was fun and most memorable.*

*Dr Mario Calonje/ New Orleans*

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**Dr Mario A Calonje** - December 22, 2023 at 02:54 PM

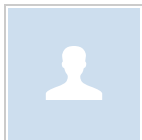


“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.*



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December 19, 2023 at 09:18 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.*



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December 19, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ *Cheryl G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.*

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**Cheryl G.** - December 19, 2023 at 05:45 PM

ET

“ Praying your Family is comforted from above. I'll miss our talks and your amazing passion for life. May God Comfort Your Family and Friends. Farewell Friend, Eric

Eric Tiebauer - December 19, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.



December 19, 2023 at 10:03 AM

TT

“ The Southwest Uponor Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.

The Southwest Uponor Team - December 19, 2023 at 10:03 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.



December 18, 2023 at 04:12 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.



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December 18, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.



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December 18, 2023 at 12:13 PM



“ *Heartfelt sympathy Matt + Uponsor family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stover Lester Smith Jr. MD.*

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**Heartfelt sympathy Matt + Uponsor family** - December 18, 2023 at 12:13 PM