

Big Thicket
December 23, 2007

Smith

Funeral services for Homer C. Smith, 82, of Liberty, were conducted Wednesday, November 28, 2007, at the First United Methodist Church, Liberty, at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Faulk Landrum, Dr. Jerry House and Reverend Ron Page officiating. Burial followed in Cooke Cemetery.

He was born in Florence, Alabama, the son of Homer and Ora Hutto Smith, both of whom preceded him in death.

Homer graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, in 1944. He and all in the boys in his class traveled to Houston en enlist in some branch of the military service. He joined the U.S. Navy, serving in the South Pacific, receiving the unit citation for action at Iwo Jima. After his discharge from the Navy he served as post commander of the American Legion at TCU in Fort Worth. He was also a lifetime member of the VFW. He received a Bachelor's Degree from TCU in 1950 and Master's Degree from Sul Ross in 1954 continuing his education toward a Doctoral Degree from University of Houston. While at TCU, he was educated to be a cheerleader.

He was a Methodist for 57 years serving in all Lay positions. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for 55 years, and was a charter member of the Liberty Elks Lodge, past member of the Liberty Lions Club, Rotary Club, and the Valley Players, where he participated in three productions. He was Past President of Liberty Retired Teachers Association, conducted a workshop on TV for Texas Teachers for Texas Education Agency, and belonged to several educational organizations.

Homer was a coach, teacher and principal in Texas for thirty years, and served as Associate Director of Admissions at Texas A&M.

Following retirement Homer became manager of the Liberty-Dayton Chamber of Commerce in 1977. During that tenure he originated the first bosses and secretaries' luncheon, initiated the teacher's reception each August, and held the first joint banquet for the Liberty and Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. He established the annual "Parade with Santa" in both Liberty and Dayton. He also worked with the road committees to widen 1409, FM 1960, while work was begun on the railroad underpass in Dayton, and set a motion of the project beautification between Liberty and Dayton including lining the median with Oleanders. Several new industries were established in this area at that time.

He later became Grand Jury Bailiff for Liberty County and served for a time as Region IV co-coordinator of adult education.

Homer was a columnist for the *Liberty Vindicator* for several years resulting in his book, "*Informally Speaking*." His writings continue to be read in the "*Liberty County Outlook*" Magazine. He won first place for humorous columns at the 1995 Gulf Coast Press Association meeting in Galveston. He also wrote for "*Stars and Stripes*" military newspaper, and the educator's "*Texas Outlook*" magazine.

Homer receiving the Citizen of the Year award in Dayton in 1975.

He passed away in Liberty, at his home. He had been ill for an extended time. He also