



## Ernest A. Smart

October 25, 1932 - May 16, 2019

Colonel Ernest A Smart, 86, passed away Thursday May, 16, 2019 at home in Oviedo, Florida.

He was born in Saco, Maine October 25, 1932 to Robert and Diantha (Wormwood) Smart. Ernie attended Thorton Academy and University of Maine where he excelled in both academics and on the football field as well as ROTC.

Ernie is a veteran of the Vietnam War where he earned many medals, including Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, 22 Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and many badges. He proudly served in the US Army from 1955 to 1981. Following his career in the Army, Ernie later joined the University of Central Florida's Institute for Simulation and Training (IST) as the Director of Governmental Relations. He worked with the leaders of UCF and the Board of Trustees to make IST an established research institute where his career spanned almost 30 years.

Ernie was an avid tennis player and a woodworker who created beautiful pieces of art and furniture. He loved his Maine Black Bears, UCF Knights and Florida State Seminoles. He had a love for life, animals, good jokes and bad

jokes.

Ernie is survived by his loving wife Doris Azizian of 59 years, his daughter Cheryl Smart (Phil Fairbrother) of Seneca, SC, daughter Pamela Smart of Atlanta, GA, granddaughter Rachael Cohen (Joshua) of Jacksonville, FL , grandson Trevor Kierecki of Greenville, SC, great-grandson Rhett Cohen, and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his precious cats Bob and Rusty.

He is preceded in death by his father Robert E. Smart, II, mother Diantha Wormwood, adoptive mother Ruth Blanchett who raised him, brothers Robert Smart, III, Henry Smart (Carrol), and nephew Robert Smart.

Ernie will be interred with full military honors at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, on Friday, May 31, 2019 at 10:30am. His celebration of life will be held at 5:30 on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at UCF -Institute for Simulation & Training, Partnership II Building.

In honor of Ernie, memorial contributions may be made to Easterseals Florida at <https://www.easterseals.com/florida> or the Alzheimer's Association-Central Florida Chapter at <https://www.alz.org/cnfl>.

# Tribute Wall



“ I cant believe that I stumbled on this. He was the CO of the 7/17 Air Cav in Pleiku when I was assigned to be their flight surgeon.. I was really against the war. He figured that out, got me kicked out so I ended up serving most of my tour in the garden spot of Nha Trang. I gotta admit he was an enthusiastic leader about a cause that had long since been lost.  
*Frater, ave atque vale.*

Erwin Haas - June 08, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JK

“ I am very sad to learn of Ernie’s passing. Like many others have shared, Ernie was a true gentleman and a positive influence. I have Ernie to thank for passing my resume to the right person at the right time! I am grateful for his advice and will miss his good (and bad) jokes. Ernie was a humble man - back in 2011, when I asked if we could honor him for his years of Service in the military at an opening ceremony for wounded warriors, he VERY reluctantly agreed. At the end of the ceremony, he said “you know, this was pretty cool” . I will forever be thankful for his solid advice and encouraging words...



Jennifer Kraeger - June 20, 2019 at 01:35 PM



Thank you for your kind words Jennifer and the wonderful picture of my dad. - Pamela

Pamela Smart - June 27, 2019 at 10:52 AM

MB

*I worked with him at Ft. Benning, Ga. I remember him as a great Colonel, and enjoyed working with him.*

**Myra Hallmark Burch** - November 28, 2020 at 12:24 AM

  
Pamela  
Smart

*Thank you Myra!*

**Pamela Smart** - January 21, 2021 at 05:51 PM

GG

“*Ernie WAS IST. He was one of the small group of smart people who created the idea for IST, then turned that idea into bricks and mortar, then led the organization to international acclaim. Like making sausage, it was not always a neat and tidy process. But Ernie's personality helped him sweet talk this one, cajole that one, and get the job done. He was a heroic soldier who rarely spoke of war but always had steel in his spine when he needed it. As befits a great soldier, Ernie kept his people first. He cared for them and took care of them. He always had a sympathetic ear and sound advice.*

*Ernie was my mentor and best friend at IST for many years. He and Doris were great friends of my wife and I. We still have several of his wood carvings and Doris's art works in our home. His departure leaves a huge hole in his family, with his friends and at IST. God speed, Ernie.*

**Gary Green** - May 26, 2019 at 11:21 AM

PA

*Thank you sharing such wonderful memories of Ernie!*

**Pamela** - June 03, 2019 at 05:17 PM

TG

*I served under him in Vietnam, when he was the C/O of the Ruthless Riders, as his aero-rifle platoon leader for A Troop, 7/17 Air Cavalry Squadron, from July 1970 until January 1971, and then as an S-3 on the staff of his Squadron from January 1971 through July 1971 (which included the time of his involvement with operation Lam Son 719). He was a great leader and courageous combat commander, who took care of his men. After our respective tours in Vietnam then ended, he was assigned to the Armor Officer Assignments at the Pentagon, and I was assigned to the 1st Cav Division at Ft, Hood. Then he did me a big personal favor,, for which I have been grateful ever since. He was aware that I had been accepted to law school before I had to go immediately on active duty when I obtained a college ROTC graduation commission (and my prior delay for call to active duty service to attend law school that had previously been granted, got revoked by the Army after the Tet offensive of 1968). So in 1972, when the Army was reducing its need for personnel, he helped me get an early release from active duty, (to transfer to a local reserve unit). That allowed me to start law school immediately, and sped up my law school completion by 2 years.*

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**Thomas Galyean** - March 07 at 01:32 AM

PS

*Thomas, thank you for sharing your memories of our father ~ Pamela*

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**Pamela Smart** - May 24 at 01:14 AM

BA

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to you, Doris, and to your family for the loss of such a special and dedicated war hero, husband and father. We are currently overseas and will not be able to attend any ceremony. May the love of family and friends help get through this very difficult time. Loved ones always remain in our hearts. Fondly,  
Jim and Beatrice Athanas*

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**Beatrice Athanas** - May 26, 2019 at 04:07 AM

PA

*Thank you for remembering Ernie, he always enjoyed your company at the art galleries. - Doris*

**Pamela** - June 03, 2019 at 05:14 PM

JH

*Col Smart was my 6 in Vietnam 7/17th Air Cav. I served as a helicopter Crew Chief/ Door gunner under his command.*

**James Hickey** - December 25, 2023 at 09:13 PM

DH

*“ I was still in college when Ernie approved hiring me as a tech writer at IST. As accomplished as he was, Ernie was easy to approach and easy to work with. I'd often see Ernie standing in a group of military guys or IST project leaders, everyone laughing, Ernie at the center. I enjoyed seeing his friendship with Brian G.*

*Ernie struck me as a man's man. And yet, he treated women in the office with respect, including interns like myself. I overheard him once telling someone to stop asking me to type things—that I was a good writer and he didn't want my talent wasted. Ernie didn't know I was in earshot, but his words buoyed me. I have only good memories and respect for him.*

**Danette Haworth** - May 23, 2019 at 06:32 PM

PA

*Thank you for the kind words an memories of my father. - P*

**Pamela** - June 03, 2019 at 05:14 PM

BO

*I am sorry to have just learned that Ernie passed  
We first met at CATB When he was my CO  
He facilitated my transition to civil service at Fort benning  
We later worked together here in central Florida  
He was a fine officers true gentleman and a friend*

**bobogus** - January 27, 2023 at 05:32 PM



*Thank you Bob for your kind words ~ Pamela*

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**Pamela Smart** - May 24 at 01:21 AM