



Charles B Smith

March 17, 1924 - September 6, 2019

PRINCETON — Charles B. Smith, 95, passed away Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, at Liberty Village in Princeton.

He was born halfway between Arlington and 5 Points on Barefoot Road in Berlin Township on March 17, 1924, to Charles Asa Smith and Verna Ethel (Hubbard) Smith.

Charlie walked 1 1/2 miles to attend a one-room schoolhouse, Jay School, for eight years. When he was 9, he would drive his older sister, Eileen, to Malden High School, five miles away from his home, return home, and then would walk to the Jay School. He later attended Malden High School. During the Great Depression, Charlie would spend his summers working for Henry Hildebrand to earn room and board. He did this from the age of 9 to 17. He milked cows, ran the cream separator and helped make fence. At the age of 14, he began going on threshing runs with a team of broncos.

He was one of 101 people from Bureau County in the first 18- to 19-year-old draft for World War II. He was a Tech 4 medic in the U.S. Army. He worked as a medic in England at the 186th General Hospital and also participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He received three Overseas Service Bars, an American Campaign Medal, the European African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, a Good Conduct Medal and a World War II Victory Medal.

On April 6, 1947, Charlie married the love of his life, Dorothy Bickett Smith, in LaSalle. They recently celebrated 72 years of marriage. He worked at Champion Pneumatic in Princeton and as a furnace installer for Sears. Charlie was a self-employed handyman for many years. He developed a love of cars and machines at a young age. In his spare time, Charlie could be found in his garage restoring cars. He restored a 1946 Hudson pickup, a 1933 Plymouth PB Sedan, a 1968 Gran Sport 400 Convertible and his pride and joy, a 1922 Nash 7 Passenger Touring car. He would spend many weekends driving his old cars in parades and participating in car shows. He was a member of the Wyanet Old Car Club, the Princeton Moose Lodge and the American Legion. In 2011, he participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Bickett Smith, and one daughter, Judith (David) Smith Brown of Princeton; a sister, Margie (Don) Christensen of Peru; his grandchildren, Shelli Smith, Charles Jay Smith, Kelli Smith Wenglewski, Randy Smith, Lisa Smith May and Shana Brown; 13 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Charles "Chuck" Smith and Dennis Smith; his sister, Eileen Schwab; and his brothers, Don Smith, Melvin Smith and Ivan Gene Smith.

Services for Charlie will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, at the chapel at Oakland Cemetery in Princeton, followed by a graveside service with full military honors, officiated by Pastor Frank Gervasi.

Pallbearers will be David Brown, Charles Jay Smith, Randy Smith, Jon Damaschke, Samuel May, Mitchell May, Steven May and Larry Jones.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Princeton American

Legion.

The Norberg Memorial Home in Princeton is handling arrangements.

Online condolences may be left at www.norbergfh.com.

Previous Events

Service

SEP **12.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

Oakland Cemetery Chapel

Graveside

SEP **12.** 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Oakland Cemetery
Park Avenue
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I didn't know him, but I knew Denny Smith and we know Judy and Dave Brown. Many who knew him are saying wonderful things about him and telling a few great stories. We're sending our sincere condolences to Judy and all of his family. May he Rest In Peace.

Jim & Mary Lynn May - September 15, 2019 at 03:13 PM

AC

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. May the memories that you cherish help you through this difficult time. Live & Hugs to you all. Aunt Cissy

Aunt Cissy - September 12, 2019 at 01:33 AM

 Gail
Damaschke

“ Our deepest sympathy to you in this loss.
Gail Damaschke, Dan Nash and family.

Gail Damaschke - September 10, 2019 at 11:37 PM

B(

“ To Aunt Dorothy: you have my best wishes in this sad time. I enjoyed the times you and Charlie visited us in the old Nash and I even rode in it I remember. Last time I was home during Homestead festival I sat Sunday afternoon with Charlie and his friends who were all displaying their cars and trucks. They were all so proud of their trophies and enjoyed talking about their restorations. I remember the Bickett family reunion picnics out at the park in the summer while growing up. Those sure were good times. Charlie had so many trophies from car shows for his beloved Nash. You, Charlie and all the other aunts and uncles sure made my Princeton childhood full of so many great memories. Charlie can now spend his time in Heaven looking down on you Dorothy waiting for the time you will be reunited. He is probably hoping that you can buy back his Nash and bring it with you when you join him in Heaven hoping you drive through the pearly gates waving at him. Funny thing I never remember him letting you drive the old Nash, so I hope you can to make him smile more when you two reunite in Heaven. Love you Aunt Dorothy and will miss Uncle Charlie and his stories. Wish I could be there for you in your time of need. He is probably having a cup of coffee with Mom, Dad, Uncle Harold, Uncle Bobbie, Uncle Junior, and all the other departed Aunts, Uncles and other Bicketts! If not he probably has already found the great restoration garage in the sky and is throwing back a wrench fixing up another Nash with Denny!! Best of health to you Aunt Dorothy!

Brian Brutcher (Nephew) - September 10, 2019 at 08:17 PM