



Richard "Smut" C. Southerland

February 12, 1945 - June 30, 2017

Richard "Smut" Southerland passed away peacefully at home on June 30th.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Susie; his brother, retired Col. G. Randolph (Myra) Southerland; three stepchildren, retired Major Steven (Shana) Sharp, Scot Sharp and Sarah Sharp.

He had 13 grandchildren and four great grandchildren, who adored their Papa as he did them. He was also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents Grover and Helen Southerland, his sister in law Sylvia Southerland, stepdaughter Amy Sharp Poe, uncle Admiral Leonard Southerland of Fort Payne, uncle Donald Southerland and aunt Bernice Southerland Tate.

Rick lived in Fort Payne almost all of his 72 years. He attended the old DeKalb High School at the foot of Lookout Mtn. He also attended college at Northeast the first year it opened. He wanted to enlist during the Vietnam War, but was turned down because of kidney disease at 19. He really admired the military service. Many may remember him working at the Recreation Department as a referee and umpire for many years. He was a kidney transplant recipient and his job was changed to dispatcher at the Street Department.

Until his retirement to Mentone, he had always lived in Fort Payne and was content to do so. He loved his town. He could have walked the streets blindfolded. His interests included tropical fish, photography, the Atlanta Braves, the Alabama football and trips to the Smoky Mountains.

He never met a stranger and he always had a laugh, a joke or a story. He had a large repertoire of memories and stories of people and places of growing up here in a slower time, where you knew your neighbors and everyone else.

He will be missed greatly by all his family and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard "Smut" C. Southerland*

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *Smut was certainly one of a kind. Always had a smile and story to tell. Smut was always at sporting events and usually keeping score.. He will certainly be missed. Rest In Peace.*

Tommy Hicks - July 14, 2019 at 06:22 PM



“ *Smut "Mr. Richard" was an old friend, he was always kind to everyone, he watched out for people, me included. I met him when I was just a kid, he came in the store that I managed. He always had a joke to tell or something funny, he loved to make people laugh. I would kidded him about finding the perfect woman and settling down, he laughed about it but when he found her, you could see that "spark" in his eyes was different, he found "Home" when he found Susie. He seemed truly happy and though I lost touch with him when I left that job 20 years, I have thought about him often and wondered where he had gotten off to. I am so happy to know he found happiness and for 30 years is a wonderful accomplishment in the world we live in. God Bless you Miss Susie, prayers for comfort and peace for you and your family.*



Tammy Blevins - July 17, 2017 at 08:45 AM



“ So sorry for the family's loss, His tribute potraits the life I also had although Smut was older than I was, He was so kind to my husband when he would called the city, My husband was sad to find out he had retired.... My husband told me Smut was a good man, a hard worker and went out of his way to help me, No one will ever replace Smut for the city, he cant be replaced”



Darlene Stophel - July 14, 2017 at 10:46 PM

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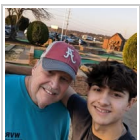
“ Oh what a shock! So very sorry to learn "Smutt" has left us.. My prayers and sympathy for you all.

Annette Baugh - July 14, 2017 at 09:48 PM

AH

“ Worked many years with him at the reception center, so sorry to hear of his passing

Anita harel - July 14, 2017 at 09:46 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Smutts passing. Did visit with him at the nursing home a while back and he was still the same ole Smutt. I will always remember his "campaign" slogan, "Don't get in a rut, vote for Smutt! I will miss him!

Roger Ingle - July 14, 2017 at 03:40 PM