

Terry Calder Smith

January 31, 1951 ~ April 17, 2024

Terry Calder Smith was born January 31, 1951 in Montpelier, Idaho to Dean and Dolores Smith. He was the oldest of four children—a sister Toni (Burnell) Thorley and two brothers Rock (Trina) Smith and Mark (Kathy) Smith. Terry had a happy childhood, growing up in Fish Haven Idaho, on the west shore of Bear Lake. There were no neighbor kids nearby, but he loved living right across the street from the lake, climbing trees and playing with his little sister and his dog.

When he was 2 years old, he was attending general conference with his parents at the tabernacle. After they had exited the meeting, a door opened and President McKay came out. He saw Terry and walked over. He stooped, picked him up in his arms, and spoke to him. Later Terry served as a missionary in Scotland, where President McKay had also served.

Terry started school in a one room schoolhouse with a row for each grade. There were only 12 students in the school, and he loved it. He walked to school with his teacher who lived next door. He also took piano lessons and played the saxophone in his school band.

His love for the organ began when he was 11 years old. He took an organ course through the church music committee and was told he had an aptitude for it, so his grandparents bought them an organ. He loved playing various organs. He played in the Paris, Idaho Tabernacle at his uncle’s funeral and in a Church of Scotland on his mission. Wherever he traveled, he asked permission to try the organ. One favorite hymn he always played was “High on the Mountain Top”. He even refurbished an old pump organ which he kept in his home.

When he was in high school, the family moved to Montpelier, then to Logan, and finally to Salt Lake City where he graduated from Skyline High School. He attended BYU on a full scholarship both before and after his mission.

He met his sweetheart, Nancy Hampton on a blind date. Frequently he told his children the story of how he almost fell off the front porch when she opened the door. They dated for a short time and were married in August 1973 in the Salt Lake Temple.

They lived in Sandy for a while and then moved to West Valley City where they bought a home. All five of their children were born while they lived there--Emily (Steve) Fenton, Robert (Shelley) Smith, Zachary (Heidi) Smith, Sara (Greg) Langhaim and Adam Smith.

Terry felt directed to pursue a job in family history. He worked at the Church Genealogy Library, then a private family research company. He learned a lot about family history, which he was later able to use in his own research. He loved working on family history throughout his life.

Terry changed careers and began working for the United States Postal Service. After some different positions, he ended up working as a clerk at the Main Post Office over the Box Section Records.

In 1992, Terry developed a twitch in his thumb. About three years later it was diagnosed as Parkinson’s Disease. That was a real challenge in Terry’s life, but he never complained and rarely even missed a day of work. In fact, when he retired from the post office, he had saved over a year’s worth of sick leave. At this time, they moved to Herriman where he continued to serve others until the last few years of his life, when his Parkinson’s became quite debilitating.

Terry served in many church callings during his life, including bishopric counselor, executive secretary, high priest group, elders quorum president, young men’s, ward and stake clerks, ward and stake family history, and several teaching roles. He also served a part time family history book scanning mission with his wife.

One calling that persisted with all others was organist. He served as ward and temple organist, playing in both the Jordan River Temple baptistry and the Oquirrh Mountain Temple. He also loved playing organ-piano duets with his wife. Organ playing is one of the things he missed most when Parkinson’s Disease robbed him of the ability to move his fingers and feet.

He was always busy doing something. He loved working in the yard. He involved his kids in the work but made sure they had fun afterward. He enjoyed floral arranging and brought flowers to church for quite a few years. He loved to travel with his family, go camping, and spend time at the family cabin in Fish Haven.

Terry was a good man who taught by example. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather to 20 grandchildren.

The last month of his life was spent at Autumn Care Center in Hyde Park Utah, where he received excellent care from nurses and staff, daily visits from Nancy, and visits from his loving family. He passed away on April 17, 2024, in Hyde Park, Utah at the age of 73.

One of Terry’s favorite scriptures was “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” –Proverbs 3:5-6

Funeral services will be held Friday April 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Anthem 4th Ward, 12352 S Big Bend Vista Drive, Herriman, Utah. A viewing will be held the night prior, Thursday April 25, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Riverton Larkin, 3688 West 12600 S, Riverton, Utah. A short viewing will be held on Friday morning prior to the service from 10:00-10:45 a.m. at the church.

Interment will take place Saturday April 27, 2024 at Fish Haven Cemetery, 2744 US Highway 89, Fish Haven, Idaho at 12:00 pm.

Those wishing to view theCOMPLETED service can click "Watch Service" or follow the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/JTxD-AEPvir0q7Fx9byyvnedXcHyFGAsZ5MyTGGobacZ9DrReq8cfJQ2as_MMsAp.by