



## William "Bill" Edward Smith

November 11, 1936 - December 19, 2020

\* The funeral service is now available at <https://fb.watch/6PVXvIcV4s/> \*

William (Bill) Edward Smith, 84, of Colorado Springs, Colorado and formerly of Akron died on Dec. 19, 2020 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

He was born to Ernest and Esther Smith in a house next to the old grade school in Akron, Indiana on Nov. 11, 1936 (Veterans Day).

Bill graduated from Akron High School in 1954, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and while at home on leave, married Carol Ann Smith in 1956, she preceded him in death on Feb. 22, 1997.

He discharged from the Air Force and attended Ball State University, graduating in 1965.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. and retired with the rank of Lt. Col. in 1983. Bill had a distinguished military career with many accomplishments, including serving as a Minuteman missile combat crew commander. He and his deputy (long term friend, Elbert Johnson) were the first crew in the Air Force to be qualified as mission-ready directly from initial training. They were also selected to launch a missile as an operational test. In addition, Bill was presented with the Crewmember Excellence Award by the

command at 15th Air Force, an honor awarded to approximately the top 15% of the crew force.

Upon retirement from the military, he had a second career at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs as a credentials examiner and retired in 2004.

Bill always appreciated fine mechanisms and was heavily involved with photography and target shooting for hobbies as a result. He was an avid sports fan, especially baseball and golf. He also appreciated classical music and loved listening to it.

Late in life, he moved into an independent living facility and was a staff favorite. He was loved by all who knew him and will be missed very much. His wife, Carol Smith, preceded him in death as did his parents Ernest and Esther Smith, a brother James, and a sister Jane.

He is survived by a son, Michael Smith of Aloha, Oregon and a daughter, Mary Warden of Colorado Springs. He also leaves behind two much-loved grandchildren, Ashley Warden-Williams and Nathan Warden and two great grandchildren, Andrew Warden and Jacob Warden.

A graveside service will take place at 10:00 am, Saturday, July 17, 2021 at the Akron Cemetery with graveside military rites performed by the Fulton County Honor Guard. Friends and family may gather starting at 9:00 am at the cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Akron Cemetery

S 1075 E  
Akron, IN 46910

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

Akron Cemetery  
S 1075 E  
Akron, IN 46910

# Tribute Wall



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Edward Smith



Hartzler Funeral Services - July 18, 2021 at 09:38 AM

OM

“ Bill and I was in the same Akron class for 12 years of school and graduated in 1954. Our class was small so we were like a big family. We made a lot of wonderful Memories. Will never forget. RIP Classmate!



Orabelle Meredith - July 16, 2021 at 02:50 PM

TP

“ I was a year behind Bill in school, and we spent a lot of time together participating in various sports (our favorite was chasing girls). We have lost touch over the past years, but I have fond memories of a reliable friend during our informative years. Rest in peace, Buddy.

Thomas Phillips - December 24, 2020 at 08:54 AM