



## Jerry Fritts Smith Sr.

August 31, 1941 - September 22, 2022

Hackettstown - Jerry Fritts Smith, Sr., age 81, passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at Hackettstown Medical Center. Born on August 31, 1941 in Newton to the late Clifford and Elizabeth (Fritts) Smith, he grew up in Sparta and lived in Chester for most of his life. He had served in the United States Army from 1960 to 1963. Mr. Smith received his Bachelor of Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and graduated from Brown University and Graduate School of Savings Banking. Mr. Smith worked in the banking industry and had been an executive banker at Morris County Savings in Morristown for many years. Mr. Smith was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Chester since 1971. His hobbies were traveling, fishing and woodworking. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his son, Christopher in 2006. He is survived by his son, Jerry "Jay" F. Smith, Jr. and his wife Simone of Green Township; his daughter, Cynthia Brownell and her husband Steve of Watertown, Connecticut; his sisters, Carlen Smith of Dover, Kendra Mueller and her husband Charlie of Sparta, and Carmen Cole of Maryland; and his granddaughter, Emily. Private interment has been entrusted to the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com).

## Cemetery Details

**Private Interment will be held at the convenience of the family**

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robert C Mooney - December 19, 2022 at 09:46 AM

RM

*The house at Tomahawk Lake.*

Robert C Mooney - December 19, 2022 at 02:47 PM

RM

“ Jerry was a special man, neighbor, and friend. Many nights he shared stories of his youth in Sparta, his time in the military, and stories of his family whom he loved very much. There were nights we'd talk and laugh until he fell asleep in that huge chair of his and I'd quietly retreat to my rooms upstairs.

I'm sorry I lost contact with Jerry and his family since I moved back to Texas. Life gets in the way of the best intentions. And then death closes the door too soon. Sometimes I still wake in the early morning hours and I lie in the dark remembering how I would hear the "next" movie tones on TCM come up through the the old farmhouse floor. Jerry would always apologize about the "noise" but it never bothered me. I was more worried when occasionally he'd be away from home and the house was quiet except for the noise old buildings make as they age. Having Jerry just a holler away was comfortable. We watched out for each other; each of us in our own way. I'm lucky to have had such a good neighbor. Jerry and his family were always kind and welcoming. Jerry was also what my grandmother would have called a "rascal." I'm sure he would have agreed with her. There were times, when telling a story from his past; especially about growing up on Main Street, the glint in his eyes was so bright I could feel the joy in the telling. Jerry was a special man. He was a good neighbor. Jerry was my friend. I hope he hears my words through the dark. Goodbye, my friend. Leave the TV on for me.

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Robert C Mooney - December 19, 2022 at 09:33 AM

PF

“ Unfortunately, my wife of 61 years passed away just a few months following Jerry’s passing. Consequently, I share in the loss of a loved one with Jerry’s extended family. Jerry was my cousin on the Fritts side of our family, His mom was my Aunt Elizabeth. , my father’s youngest sister. I remember spending several weekends with her family in Sparta back in the mid to late-1940s, where Jerry, our cousin Francis and I would play under the stairwell of her Victorian house and raze holy hell! Of course, Aunt Elizabeth would only take so much and then order us to bed! Soon after our grandmother (who was living with my Aunt Elizabeth at that time) died, I entered Blair Academy (a boy’s boarding school), Jerry and I lost touch. I did see him once while I was at the Andover Hotel on leave from the Army. It was then that I found out that Jerry and I entered the Army the same year in 1960. Jerry served for three years and I stayed on for 20 years. Thanks to his sisters (Carman and Cendra), we have kept in touch over the past umpteen years through the exchange of Christmas cards. In addition, my niece (Sandra Beebe Raynoir) keeps in touch with another of my cousins (Cindy Poist) on my mother’s side of our family. As a result, we still maintain family connections. After reading Jerry’s obit, I am sincerely impressed with the high level of his education and the success he achieved throughout his lifetime. May He Rest In Peace!  
Courtney R. )Pete) Fritts.

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**Pete Fritts** - September 27, 2022 at 10:39 AM

TH

“ I clearly remember living across the street from the Smiths on Main Street in Sparta. Jerry was the “big” brother to Kendra, Carmen and Carlin, and I visited many times, playing in their yard or mine. So many years ago. My condolences to all. Terry McCarthy Hammler

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**terry mccarthy hammler** - September 25, 2022 at 07:52 AM

JC

“ We are so sad you. We will always all the fun we had together, especially that fishing trip in Mexico! Jerry will always be in our hearts. We love you.  
*John and Carol*

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**John and Carol** - September 24, 2022 at 12:15 PM

DS

“ Jay and Cynthia, don and I and our kids, Kathryn, Mike Paul and Steve are so sorry for your loss. We were neighbors of your MOM and Dad for 15 years. I remember your Dad giving a tribute to us at our going away and 25th anniversary party. It was endearing to me. Your Dad did several fishing trips with Don. Jerry was a good friend to us and a big part of our memories from Chester included him. He loved you kids so much. We hope someday we might see you both again. We have always loved you both. Don and Glenna southwell

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**don and glenna southwell** - September 24, 2022 at 11:06 AM

WS

“ We are so sorry for your loss Smith family. Jerry (Fritts) was a very close and dear friend for many many years. If it wasn't for Jerry, Warren and I would have never met. We all worked together.  
*Thanks Fritts!* ❤️❤️🙏🙏

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**Warren and Margo Schoder** - September 24, 2022 at 08:43 AM