Sample Obituary

'Bill' Smith, 63

Former Anchorage resident William Floyd “Bill” Smith, 63, died Dec. 16, 2000, at his home in Aurora, Ore. A service was held Friday at Fisher Funeral Home in Williamsport, Ind. Burial took place at West Lebanon Cemetery.

Mr. Smith was born Jan. 25, 1937, in Chehalis, Wash., to Louis F. and Lydia M. (Merrill) Smith. He graduated from Olympia High School in 1955. He married Pauline LaTouche on July 15, 1967, in Williamsport. He came to Fort Richardson in the 1950s while serving in the U.S. Army as a communications technician. After his discharge, he was employed by Chevron USA as an engineer technologist for 28 years, retiring in 1987.

He coached Little League softball for 10 years in Anchorage.

He had lived in Anchorage for 40 years when he moved to Aurora in 1995.

In retirement, he enjoyed woodworking and especially wood art.

Mr. Smith was a member of Chevron Retirees Association and the American Association of Retired Persons. His family wrote: “Bill’s generosity and kind heart were an inspiration to his family. He lived his life with integrity and bravery.”

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and Roger Connor of Williamsport; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Amy Smith of Yukon, Okla.; grandchildren, Brandi and Craig Davis of Williamsport, Ind.; brother, Leroy Smith of Auburn, Wash., and sister, Wilma MacLeroy of Seattle. Mr. Smith was preceded in death by his wife, Pauline; an infant child; and his brother, Ronald.

Chase Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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**The basic obituary usually includes:**
--*Full name of the deceased*
--*Age*
--*Date of Birth*
--*City and state of residence* where they were living when they passed away
--*Name of significant other* (alive or deceased)
--*Time, date and place of viewing, burial, wake and memorial service arrangements*--If you don't have this information yet, you can always write something like, "funeral arrangements are being made by ABC Funeral Home and will be announced at a later date." That way those who are interested can contact the funeral home for more information. If you plan on repeating the obituary, you can include the details in a future issue.

**Other things you might want to include:**
--*City and state of birth*
--*City and state of other residences*--You may want to include this if: most of the person's life was spent living in a different place from where they died, they lived in a town or city that was important to them or if they were well known or did something notable in a previous town.
--*Parents' names and residences*--Some people only include these if they're still alive, but others give tribute to a deceased parent (ex: "daughter of the late John Smith").
--*Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren's names and residences*--If this list gets two long, you can eliminate the names and locations (ex: "five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren").
--*Other family members* (nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, etc.) and special friends-- Again, this can make your obituary quite long (and can get political if you include some names, but not others), so you may want to leave these people out unless you have a small family or are prepared to pay for a costly obituary.
--*Special pets*
--*Activities*--Include churches, clubs, organizations, volunteer groups, hobbies and other things that were important to your loved one.
--*Vocation* and places of employment
--*Notable accomplishments*
--*Degrees and schools attended*
--*Military service*
--*Date of marriage*
--*Personality traits and anecdotes*
--*How they died*--Most people don't include this information, but it's up to you. Use good judgment, especially if the death was gruesome, involved illegal activity or was a suicide. However, if someone died while in the war or during a major catastrophe, you may want to include that information.
--*Where people should make a memorial contribution*. If you'd rather people not send flowers, tell them where they can make a contribution. Again, think about what your loved one, not you, would want.