



Lonnie Smelser

February 14, 1927 - July 3, 2018

Lonnie Wade Smelser died on July 3, 2018 at the age of 91. He was born on February 14, 1927 in Magnolia, Arkansas to the late Daniel and Rosa (Thurman) Smelser. In 1947 Lonnie married Norma Kathleen Grissom of Morris, Oklahoma. They moved to San Jose, California in 1953 where he worked as a building contractor. In 1993 they moved to Morris.

He is preceded in death by his wife of sixty-two years Norma Smelser, two brothers Edward and Norman Smelser, two sisters Myrtle Elledge and Marilyn Alexander, and his brother-in-law Rev. C.L. Grissom.

Lonnie is survived by his daughter Lana A. Jacobs and husband Melvin of Fort Smith, AR, four brothers Daniel, James, Charles, and John Smelser, two sisters Rebecca Rauch and Frances Schutt, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lonnie moved to Fianna Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Fort Smith in 2011. The family is thankful for the love, respect, and dignity shown in the care he was given for the last seven years.

A funeral service for Lonnie will be held Monday, July 16, 2018 10:00 A.M. at the Gospel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church in Henryetta, Oklahoma. Interment will follow at the Okmulgee Cemetery. Friends may visit the funeral home on Sunday, July 15, 2018 from 3:00pm until 6:00 pm with the family present.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Lonnie's Tribute Page of our website at www.mcclendon-winters.com

Cemetery Details

Okmulgee Cemetery

2601 South Wood Drive
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-5109

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **15**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - Okmulgee
303 E. 7th Street
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1677
info@mcclendon-winters.com
<https://www.mcclendon-winters.com>

Funeral Service

JUL **16**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Gospel Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church
406 East Spruce
Henryetta, OK 74437

Tribute Wall



“ McClendon-Winters Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Lonnie Smelser



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - July 10, 2018 at 11:10 AM

JS

Wonderful video of a terrific Brother! 👍😎❤️

John Smelser - July 11, 2018 at 11:37 AM

BM

I have never known not knowing Brother Lonnie Smelser. He was an encouraging, happy man who loved people and God. He was a good carpenter and builder who was always ready to help others. I remember one of his favorite expressions was "Let the church, (he left out the r in church) roll on". He certainly did his part.

Barbara Stafford Moss - July 11, 2018 at 08:27 PM



“ Lonnie Smelser

December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM

MB

“ I have just today saw where Lonnie died back in July. I really wished I had known I would have made every effort to have come on Sunday to see the family. I know I probably would not recognize most of the family I really would have liked to have seen who were there. I am Leah's middle daughter making Lonnie and me first cousins.

Mary Bailey - September 17, 2018 at 04:16 PM

MF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Lana and Mel and the Grissom family. Bro. Lonnie was a wonderful man of God. We are privileged to live in the home he and Sis. Norma lovingly built as their retirement home in Morris. He was as master craftsman and we see his handiwork all around us in this home. We are certain that the home he enjoys today was also constructed by the Master craftsman and sits on streets of gold!

Mike Foster - July 15, 2018 at 10:06 PM

AY

“ I knew Lonnie only briefly through his daughter and his son-in-law. That brief time of knowing him, though, confirmed that he was a good, good man who engendered the same in his family. His memory will, indeed, be a blessing for those who knew him, whether well or in passing. I ache on behalf of his family for his loss, but I know those he influenced during his long and generous life will forever be his legacy.

A friend who mourns with you - July 15, 2018 at 06:04 PM

RB

“ Leon and I have great memories of Lonnie and Norma. They were so very close to our family, along with Lana. We're so very sorry for your loss.

Ruth Brokaw - July 14, 2018 at 02:01 AM

NM

“ I have fond memories from my life since I was very young, I remember the times when my parents and Bro Lonnie and Sis Norma would play games like Pit, and Rook. I still live in my grandparents house that Bro. Lonnie built.

Nelda G Merrill - July 13, 2018 at 05:33 PM

KA

“ My wife and I always enjoyed being around Uncle Lonnie and Aunt Norma. I will forever cherish that walking stick he carved on. He would do one when he visited in different places and this one he got while visiting his sister, Marilyn, while in Diboll Texas. When I got it in the auction at the Thurman reunion, I decided we would go through Ft Smith and let him carve his initials in it. So thankful for good family

Kenneth Alexander - July 11, 2018 at 02:31 PM

LV

“ Oh Uncle Lonnie! I will miss your greeting when we would meet, “Laddie Boy!” You were the fisherman’s fisherman, the carpenters carpenter and the Christians Christian. You always had a smile and a kind word. I have tried to model your life (along with my Dads) right down to your “a very pleasant evening” when I answer the phone and I refer Jan to strangers as “My Bride”. I will cherish the times we had and look forward to seeing you on the other side.

Larry Vaughan - July 10, 2018 at 10:13 PM

HS

“ *Lonnie was one of two men I chose as a roll model when I first became a Christian.
I am so glad I did because he never wavered in his walk with God.
We lived across the street from him for several years and never saw him act any other way than a model
Christian. He was not only my roll model but a true friend in whom I had the utmost of trust. I hope to see him on the other side.*

Harrel Shoemake

harrel shoemake - July 10, 2018 at 07:32 PM

RR

“ *So sorry for your lost Lana prayers to you and your family. I loved Lonnie he was so kind and understanding I always enjoyed talking with him when I was at Fianna.*

Reva Richardson - July 10, 2018 at 07:18 PM

 Ej
Johnson

“ *Oh papa lonnie, how we miss you so much! I'm beyond blessed to have gotten to take care of you.. Me bella and johnni wade love you very much!! Rest easy papa we will meet again!!*

Ej Johnson - July 10, 2018 at 05:37 PM


Rhonda
Wasmund

“ I loved "Uncle Lonnie". While we weren't blood relatives he was like an uncle to me. A praying man who had a profound impact on my young life. Lonnie & Norma were frequent guest in our home when I was a young and we were frequent guest in their home as well. I lived next door to him for years. A devote Christian and Christ-like to his very core. A true friend. When I heard of his passing this week I felt such sadness until I realized it was truly what he wanted. He is now with "his bride" as he called his sweet Norma. My life is richer for knowing him and Norma. Much richer. And I know that someday we will meet up again on the other side, sit down for awhile and have another good chat. Farewell friend, well done!

Rhonda Wasmundt - July 10, 2018 at 04:47 PM

AW

“ Lonnie was the most friendly, patient, and kind hearted man that ive ever had the pleasure of taking care of. I told him on several occasions that i wished that the other residents were more like him. Every night before bed when id ask him if he was gonna wear a specific shirt the next day, he'd always answer with "yes ma'am, if I'm still here". It would make me sad to hear him say it and I told him that one night. He told me "well maybe the good lord will call me home, and I'll get to stand next to my wife again". It breaks my heart to know that he's no longer on this earth anymore, but I know without a doubt that he's in a better place standing next to his wife. His presence is already missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to you, Lana and the rest of his friends and family. May he rest in peace. -a CNA from fianna-



Amy Woods - July 10, 2018 at 03:04 PM

MM

“ *Such a sweet positive man. My thoughts and prayers are with you Lana and all of your family. You all will always be part of our Fianna Family. It was an honor caring for and getting to know Lonnie and everyone who was so devoted to him.*

Monica Miller - July 10, 2018 at 12:02 PM

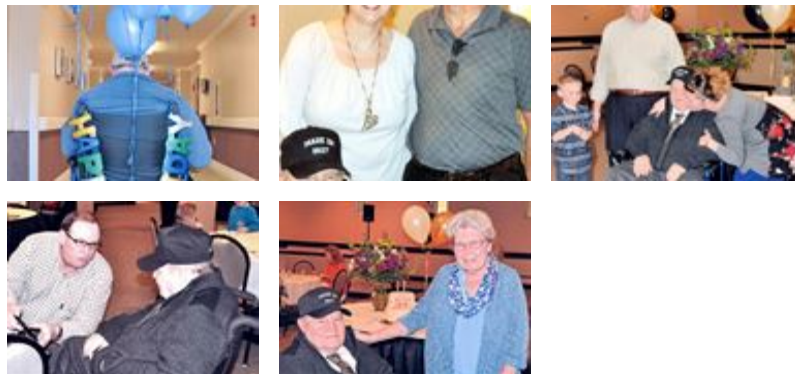
RG

“ *Lonnie was I suppose the best friend I ever had, as we worked side by side for well over 40 years, and laughed and told jokes to each other, on the job the day just seemed to pass so fast as we were always laughing , and telling of something we did are saw, the day before, I suppose he knew his time was about up for he was always telling me about the dark train that came by the home there, where he spent the last several years, and it picked up someone else, he would say then, well I missed that train, but another will be by soon for me. I know he is now happy to be with Norma, I will miss him but expect to see him again!*

Ralph Gibbs - July 10, 2018 at 11:44 AM



“ *70 files added to the album Life Tributes*



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - July 10, 2018 at 09:58 AM

BH

Bro. Lonnie was a wonderful man of God. In 1963 while on vacation in Ok, he blessed us to work on our home mission church in Haskell, Ok. We will never forget the sacrifice he made to help us reach others. May the Lord bless his family & friends with comfort, strength & peace. Bro. & Sis. A. D. HILL

Bro. & Sis. A. D. Hill - July 10, 2018 at 11:40 AM

TS

“Loved to talk to our wonderful "neighbor". He was full of life and love! He always had great memories of our kids and their "hobbies" when they were young. I remember him riding his scooter to the hardware store for the morning coffee. We miss him already!!

Tim and Annette Stewart - July 08, 2018 at 08:16 AM

JS

“I called my brother Lonnie “big Brother” and he called me “little brother”. I always looked up to him for his integrity , faithfulness , dependability , and his deep commitment to God and his precious Norma and sweet Lana! Praying for comfort for Lana and Melvin 🙏
🙏

John Smelser - July 05, 2018 at 06:10 PM