



Royce "Johnny" Lynn Smith

May 8, 1955 - August 6, 2020

Royce Lynn Smith "Johnny", 65, passed away on August 6th at Buena Vida nursing home in Odessa, Texas after a lengthy battle with end stage liver disease with his mother at his side. He was born to Troy and Ida Smith on May 8, 1955 in Tucson, Arizona. He attended Fannin, Zavala, and Cameron Elementary, Crockett and Bowie Junior High and graduated from Odessa High School in 1973.

During his illness, many of his hours were spent watching the Texas Rangers. He loved baseball. Glen Rex and The Barn Door were two of the teams he played for as a little leaguer. He received most valuable player for Glen Rex as a shortstop. His true passion was for music mostly country and western and he loved being a part of the Yellow Rose Band as a bass guitar player.

Prior to his death, he and Archie Evans were the only two surviving members of the band. He teamed up with his sister, Rhonda, and played local gigs including the Moose Lodge. Rhonda and John shared a love for music, but she was also by his side as his caregiver and best friend. In his last hours, he requested we play country music and of course played his favorite, George Jones.

He is survived by his son, Jace Conley, and wife April, his soulmate, Debbie

Conley, grandson, Ryder Conley, and granddaughters, Jaycelin Bean and Jordan Terrell, his parents, his brother, Rocky Smith, sister, Robbin Herrington and husband, James, and sister, Rhonda Smith Pyeatt and husband, Scott. He is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, and especially loved his great nieces and nephews, for they always put a smile on his face.

When asked about his “wilder days” with the “wild bunch” and visitors to the Sugar Shack, he always said, “I wouldn’t change a thing.”

The family would like to thank Dr. Anna Marie Francisco who cared for him for several years. She hugged him at every visit and made him feel so special. The family would also like to thank Dr. Ramanathan, Home Hospice and especially Michelle Hudson, Carol, and Nicole. There is no way to truly thank the nurses at Buena Vida nursing home for they have proven to us that there are angels on earth. Thank you, Naomi Lopez, Oscar Jimenez, Debbie Torres, Myeasha Jessop, Cynthia Rogers, Candy Garza, and Kathy Chavanna, and especially Lanae Tippett for making all of our Facetime calls possible.

In his 9 months at Buena Vida nursing home he opened his heart to the other residents by comforting them, getting them coffee, holding their hand, and even played a few tunes on his guitar. They loved his cowboy hats, and everyone knew him as “Cowboy”. He never complained and up until the end said, “I’m doing alright.”

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 4:00 p.m. at American Heritage Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 12. 4:00 PM (CT)

American Heritage

4100 N FM 1788

Midland, TX 79707

bekah@thehealingstartshere.com

Tribute Wall

BR

“ I will always remember Johnny correctly playing the difficult bass part to "Texas Women" when I was in the audience at The Ticket. I always enjoyed playing in bands with him. He's "Going to Mexico" now. -Bill Robinson

Bill Robinson - October 24, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the album memorial service recording



David Cole - September 10, 2020 at 12:10 PM

GW

Great memories of Johnny and the Whole Smith Family. My heart goes out to you all, Johnny was a sweet Talented guy. He will be missed greatly❤️

glenda willams. - January 25, 2021 at 12:42 AM

 Janet
Ansley

“ *My deepest sympathies and heartfelt love goes to the beautiful Smith during your loss of Johnny. I now live in the DFW area so I've just been made aware of his passing. So many wonderful memories of all of your beautiful family, and all the ways our paths in life crossed. Living across the street from you when Jason was born, Ida working at Mrs. Cooper's day care that Jason attended from the time he was 6 weeks old until Mrs. Cooper retired at his age 7; Rocky's friendship with Bruce Leachman and later running into him when our girls were playing softball, gorgeous Rhonda babysitting for Jason a few times after Dee and I divorced and living in an apartment and her stunning looks and gorgeous voice, beautiful Robin who was born with a smile on her face and always so kind and always a loyal friend, and handsome Johnny and that voice, the real thing. You all knew my brother Ralph who we lost in 1990 and your family reached out to the Kimbrough's. We never forgot. Please accept my good thoughts, my love and my never ending prayers. I know there is a "real heavenly gig" going on and Johnny is front and center with his guitar surrounded by many of the musical greats that have gone on before it.*

Janet Ansley - September 01, 2020 at 08:22 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memorial Slideshow*



David Cole - August 20, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to his family...I played church softball with his mother and they are a sweet family...May God be with you in this time of need.. Theresa and Mike Riddle*

Theresa T Riddle - August 13, 2020 at 03:20 AM



“ *Rest in peace Johnny you definitely left a memory with me. Thank you for the laughs, your good looks and your music! May God bless each and every family member in the days ahead. And most especially, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. God bless you all. Cindy Edwards-Mathews*

Celinda-Cindy Mathews - August 11, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Royce "Johnny" Lynn Smith.*



August 11, 2020 at 12:56 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Royce "Johnny" Lynn Smith.*



August 09, 2020 at 11:51 AM