



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Arja Smailes

March 15, 1918 - September 13, 2014

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Arja Smailes, 96, of Sylvester, passed away Saturday, September 13, 2014 at his home.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, September 19, 2014 at the Evergreen Baptist Church with interment to follow in the Church Cemetery with full Military Honors. The Rev. Kevin Johnson, Rev. Todd Brooks, Mr. Tom Smailes and Mr. Joe Smailes will officiate.

Mr. Smailes was born on March 15, 1918 in Dickson City, Pennsylvania to the late Isaac and Ethel Himm Smailes. After his graduation from Dickson City High School, he joined the Army Air Corp which later became the U. S. Air Force. Mr. Smailes served his country honorably for 30 years. His military service included tours of duty in North Africa, Japan, Korea, as well as various state side bases. He was a veteran of WW II and Korea. After his retirement from the U. S. Air Force, Mr. Smailes worked as an engineer for Lockheed Aircraft for 12 years. He was a long time member of Evergreen Baptist Church in Sylvester, GA.

Survivors include his devoted wife, Laurene Carter Smailes; sons, Joe David Smailes of Quincy, CA and Charles Thomas Smailes of Ft. Collins, CO; daughters, Suzan Berggren of Dallas, TX and Kimberly Sheffield of Hanford, CA; 12 grandchildren and to date, 15 great grandchildren.

Pallbearers include Joe Smailes, Tom Smailes, David Smailes, Christian Smailes, Seth Packham and Bryce Taylor.

The family will receive friends on Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Banks

Funeral Home.

The family request in lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Albany Community Hospice, 320 Foundation Ln., Albany, GA., 31707.

Please sign our online guest registry at www.banksfh.com .

Banks Funeral Home of Sylvester is in charge of the arrangements.

(229) 776-2055

Tribute Wall



“ *Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Arja Smailes*

January 28, 2023 at 12:53 PM



“ *Laurene and family -- we were so sorry to hear about Arja's passing. Your family will be in our prayers during this difficult time. You both are such good people and we think of you often with love.*

Dwyer & Vicki Stringer - May 14, 2018 at 03:36 PM



“ *Farewell my lifelong friend and childhood companion. We will meet again in God's Great Kingdom Rest in Eternal Peace. Fondly remembered, Romaine*

W. Jack Kalins & Romaine Kalins - May 14, 2018 at 03:36 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy goes out to you. Uncle Arja was a fine man and will always be remembered. Love, prayers, and thoughts go out to you.*

*Love Always,
Sherri Ann & Todd*

Sherri Ann Fenton - May 14, 2018 at 03:36 PM

JM

“ *He was a blessing to our family, he watched Brandon & Dominic grow up and we loved him. We will look back on photos and remember the good times and the talks we shared. We will keep your family in prayer.*

James & Genell Mason - May 14, 2018 at 03:36 PM