



Judge Philip Evans Smith

April 20, 1960 - September 4, 2022

Judge Philip E. Smith, age 62 of Nashville, passed away September 4, 2022. Preceded in death by his parents, Dale and Lurene Smith. Survived by his wife of 39 years, Pam Smith; children, Katelynn Smith and Kelsey Roberge (Mikey); grandchildren, Briston Roberge, Hadley Roberge, and Reed Roberge; brother, Scott Smith.

Judge Smith became the presiding judge of the 20th Judicial District on September 1, 2022. He was first appointed to the bench by former Governor Phil Bredesen in March of 2009 and was then elected in 2010, 2014, and 2022, where he compassionately served the people of Nashville. He had a passion for adoption, stating that “Adoption Day was the happiest day at the courthouse and everyone left happy”. Prior to joining the judiciary, Judge Smith was an assistant district attorney in the 20th Judicial District, working in the Child Support Enforcement. Later in his career he served as a special judge for the Davidson County 2nd Circuit Court, 5th Circuit Court, Probate Court, and as a special referee for the Davidson County Juvenile Court. He also served as a hearing panel member on the Board of Professional Responsibility. In private practice he worked for the Norman Law Firm and Robinson, Smith, and Oglesby. In 2015, The Women’s Political Collaborative of Tennessee honored Judge Smith with a “Good Guys Award” for his work on domestic violence. He graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1988 and Tennessee State University in 1984.

Visitation will be at Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home Tuesday, September 6th

from 4-6pm and Wednesday, September 7th from 3pm until the time of the Celebration of Life at 5pm. Honorary Pallbearers: Mikey Roberge, Briston Roberge, Reed Roberge, Steve Santi, Scott Smith, Terry Crotzer, Mickey Nelson, David Martin, and Steve Johnson.

In lieu of flowers please make memorials to The Family Center, 139 Thompson Ln. Nashville, TN 37211, Miriam's Promise, 3701 Hillsboro Pk. Nashville, TN 37215, or Show Hope, 230 Franklin Rd. Franklin, TN 37064.

In honor of the Judge, the family will be wearing UT Orange on Tuesday night. Anyone that would like to join in please do so. As he so proudly said, "It's football time in Tennessee, Go Vols!"

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 6. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - Nashville Chapel
2707 Gallatin Pike
Nashville, TN 37216
(615) 262-3312
info@phillipsrobinson.com
<https://www.phillipsrobinson.com/>

Visitation

SEP 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - Nashville Chapel
2707 Gallatin Pike
Nashville, TN 37216
(615) 262-3312
info@phillipsrobinson.com
<https://www.phillipsrobinson.com/>

Celebration of Life

SEP 7. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - Nashville Chapel
2707 Gallatin Pike
Nashville, TN 37216
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info@phillipsrobinson.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Judge Philip Evans Smith*



Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - September 07, 2022 at 03:15 PM



“ *Judge Philip Evans Smith*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Sending my condolences to the family. Judge Smith was my judge for my divorce, he saved my life. He had an absolute genuine soul. Very caring and supportive and I will never forget about you. May you rest peacefully.*

Jeri - September 15, 2022 at 02:20 PM



“ *A good and decent man...befriended me when I first moved to Nashville. μνήμη αιώνιαmemory eternal.*

JOHN JONETHIS - September 10, 2022 at 12:57 PM

VS

“ Judge Smith will be missed by the domestic bar and we are in mourning. His friends and colleagues from Franklin wish his family peace and fond memories of his wonderful life. We know that our Lord will bless him in Heaven for his works on this earth.



Virginia L Story - September 07, 2022 at 03:26 PM

KY

“ Phil and my son Ronnie were friends as children and were in school together at Stanford and Donelson Christian! He was such a joy and so full of life. I had the pleasure of renewing our friendship last year at Pearls and Pinstripes and was so happy to see him and reminisce. My condolences to Scott and the rest of the family. Kim Yearwood.

Kim Yearwood - September 07, 2022 at 12:14 PM

MW

“ I was a friend/neighbor/brother in Christ with Phil. He was instrumental in my choice to attend law school as an adult and career change. His excellent counsel helped me avoid some early pitfalls and helped me eliminate any interest in family law. While his client stories were legendary, and still did not violate atty client privilege, the pure entertainment factor left us laughing all too often. I also witnessed his compassionate approach with many cases. His affinity for Muriel’s style earned him the appointment to cross over to Judge in the same court he practiced in for years. It was great to see the joy this brought to him. I got to catch up with him every now and then when he described how much he genuinely loved being in that role.

His wit and humor is most of what I recall and loved. I’m sorry we were unable to attend the funeral, but I did wear my favorite UT gear in honor of Phil. He was one of the first to point out that I had the choice of picking any college football team after graduating from Cambridge/BAU and yet still selected the Vols. I was always on the fence to thank him or blame him for that questionable choice. Go Vols Go. Our deepest sympathy to Pam and the rest of the family. We hope you will draw upon the time you had with Phil and not the days ahead without him.

Mike Woods - September 07, 2022 at 12:10 PM

KR

“ I met Judge Philip Smith in February 2018. I will cherish the conversations we had regarding law and law school as his words of encouragement were always genuine. He was also genuine in his words to me as a Kentucky Wildcats Fan.

He would always say:

"It's "football" time in Tennessee! Not "fumble ball" missy, "real football" Go Vols!" He was definitely a dedicated fan of the Big Orange!

I took this picture of his bench, 2 years ago. It rests on my desk along with only 2 other pictures that represents encouragement and motivation.

To me, that judicial bench will forever be that of the Honorable Judge Philip E. Smith.



Kristy - September 07, 2022 at 12:00 PM

LA

“ A great person, judge, professional and example for all lawyers and others. The judiciary will miss his intellect and compassion for his job. So sorry. We will make a donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in his memory.

Larry Ashworth

Larry Ashworth - September 07, 2022 at 11:34 AM

MB

“ Mike and Sandy Binkley purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



Mike and Sandy Binkley - September 06, 2022 at 06:58 PM

PM

“ I met Phil and you the year after he began as a budding attorney. I suspected back then, how much positive impact he was going to have. I remember even then you sharing he'd wanted to be one a judge possibly. I'm so thankful he did so. My thoughts, prayers are with you, and sending hugs to you Pam, Katelynn and Kelsey. Pamela McMullin (your former Apache Ln neighbor).



Pamela McMullin - September 06, 2022 at 05:45 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



September 06, 2022 at 05:38 PM

KW

“ *Krista Washburn purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



Krista Washburn - September 06, 2022 at 05:11 PM

JT

“ *Phil and I were law school classmates. I always remember his great sense of humor, his big smile, and his love for his family. His passing is a huge loss to the Nashville legal community.*

John Tishler - September 06, 2022 at 04:32 PM

AH

“ *It was with a heavy heart today that I told my clients that Judge Smith had passed. He consistently treated everyone in his courtroom with respect, and his keen intellect and strong sense of fairness virtually guaranteed that if your client was trying to do his or her best, Judge Smith would recognize it. Nashville families have lost an invaluable asset. Anne Hamer*

Anne Hamer - September 06, 2022 at 04:01 PM

MS

“ Judge Phil Smith started his law career in a humble place, as D. A. child support attorney, which he handled deftly and with compassion for the chaos of so many needy people. He moved up to being an advocate for clients in complex cases. He never forgot those early experiences. As a judge he was kind to pro se clients and those with lawyers alike. He was diligent and careful in his decisions. He used the good services of Jack Norman and Stephanie Edwards as settlement judges to help clients see the light and stop their conflict. He died much too soon to enjoy the rest of his life and his own family. We will miss him.
Fmr. Judge Marietta Shipley

Marietta Shipley - September 06, 2022 at 03:17 PM

TS

“ The Law Office of Morgan Smith purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



The Law Office of Morgan Smith - September 06, 2022 at 03:06 PM

TH

“ Tee Gorham, Jad Duncan, and Sue Hamilton purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



Tee Gorham, Jad Duncan, and Sue Hamilton - September 06, 2022 at 01:44 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



September 06, 2022 at 01:08 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



September 06, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



September 06, 2022 at 11:54 AM



“ *Legal Aid of Middle Tennessee purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



Legal Aid of Middle Tennessee - September 06, 2022 at 11:07 AM

SW

“ I had the pleasure of working closely with Phil Smith when he was a child support attorney in the DA's Office and I was the Assistant Attorney General who handled the state's child support appeals. He was an excellent lawyer and a good friend. After he became a judge, I would see him occasionally around the courthouse. He and I would catch up, and talk about the Vols. Judge Smith's sudden passing is a great loss for the Nashville Bar and the Judiciary. May God comfort his grieving family during this difficult time.

Stuart Wilson-Patton - September 06, 2022 at 11:02 AM

CJ

“ Catherine and August Jackson purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



Catherine and August Jackson - September 06, 2022 at 11:00 AM



“ I was so privileged to know Judge Smith. I'll always remember his genuinely warm greeting as he began his morning docket with a styrofoam cup of coffee in his hand and a big smile on his face. His patience and sense of humor made me look forward to what could have otherwise have turned into some pretty stressful domestic dockets! He was an advocate for younger attorneys like myself--he really went out of his way to see that we succeeded. I learned a lot from him. My heart goes out to his family and friends.

Miki Sisco-Sankrityayan - September 06, 2022 at 10:38 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



September 06, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *I have known Judge Smith since the 80's. I practiced law across the street from his office. Always enjoyed his company and professionalism. I will miss seeing him as a friend and a Judge.*

larry hagar - September 06, 2022 at 10:26 AM



“ *Marie Stacey, Larry Ballew, Jim Watson purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



Marie Stacey, Larry Ballew, Jim Watson - September 06, 2022 at 10:12 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.*



September 06, 2022 at 10:00 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



September 06, 2022 at 08:45 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



September 06, 2022 at 08:41 AM

MS

“ Phil and I go way, way back to law school days. He was always a conscientious, curious and apt student of the law. He wanted very much to do the right thing. He cared deeply for all of the many lives of the people he touched, in his job as Judge. He took great pride and pleasure in all of the joy he brought to the family members on adoption day. He had a zeal for life, which he also applied to the law. He was conscientious and just in his work and rulings. He was also a lawyer’s judge, never forgetting where he came from. Despite the immense power over peoples’ lives which comes with being a family law Judge, Judge Smith remained humble, careful and circumspect in his application of law to fact. He was truly a family law judge who loved and supported family. He was the officiant in my father’s wedding. His kind eloquence in speaking the words which created that bond of matrimony, brought tears to my father’s eyes. Above all, Phil deeply loved his family. I know to them his sudden and unexpected absence creates pain and sadness that is deep beyond words at this point in time, far beyond the loss the rest of us share in his absence. But I am certain he will be waiting, with open arms—in a better place, for Pam and that he will look down on us all with the care and compassion he brought to this world. I will miss you, Phil— but I thank you for all the things you have done and all the lives you’ve touched to make this imperfect world we live in, a much better place. Stuart

Mr. stuart scott - September 05, 2022 at 08:06 PM

BY

“ Judge Smith was a valued friend and a trusted colleague. He and his family are in our thoughts and prayers. RIP Judge Smith. Bill Young

Bill Young - September 05, 2022 at 07:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Judge Philip Evans Smith.



September 05, 2022 at 06:09 PM