



## Bruce Clovis Smith

September 23, 1935 - August 29, 2015

Ivins, UT – Bruce Clovis Smith “Papaw” passed away quietly in his sleep early morning on Aug. 29, 2015. He died of natural causes. He was 79 years old. He was residing at the Southern Utah Veterans Home in Ivins, UT at the time of his passing.

Bruce is a man who lived larger than life. He was a dedicated husband, father and friend to all. He was a very diplomatic man and got along with most everyone he met. He was a deep, reflective thinker. He was born in Nevada, MO on September 23, 1935, to Clovis Walker Smith “Doc” and Ruby Elizabeth Smith. Bruce had one older sister that passed at a young age from scarlet fever. As a child, Bruce had a loyal dog named “Rocky.” In Bruce’s’ his high school years, his father would teach the boys in their community how to box. Doc taught Bruce to fight. When Bruce would defeat his opponent Doc would get an even bigger opponent to challenge Bruce.

Bruce enjoyed boxing, pole vaulting, and art. Bruce joined the US Marine Corps and was active duty during the Korean War. During his service he received the National Service Defense Medal and became an Expert Marksman. When Bruce returned to civilian life, he developed a love for body building. He became part owner of Worlds Gym in Denver, CO and trained his best friend, Roger Long, and others to hold titles such as Mr. Colorado.

Bruce went to the Kansas City School of Art. It was there he perfected his God given talent of drawing, commercial art and oil painting. Over the course of a lifetime, he developed a name for himself in the world of western/cowboy art. At one point in life, Bruce decided to get a barber license to cut hair. Before the age of computer generated imaging, Bruce would draw his clients face on a 3x5 card along with three or four different hairstyles so his client could get a better idea of they may have wanted. He had people coming to Denver by the busload from Wyoming just to get a haircut!

Bruce is a member of the LDS Church. He loved the Lord and the gospel. He grew most from teaching others from the various calling he held.

Bruce is survived by: his wife Kari Yvonne Smith; daughters: Kamin Dee (Daniel) McCune and Karissa Yvette (Timothy Gordon) Ramsey; six grandchildren Annie Sullivan, Danielle McCune, Sena Box, Aaron Lesue', Rachel Maloy, Sarah Maloy; five great-grandchildren: Daryn Barrett, Stephen Hosier, Bryce, Adam, and Hayden Murphy; and one great-great granddaughter: Lavaya Barrett.

Thank you to our fathers caregivers, first and foremost my loving and most attentive husband, Timothy Gordon Ramsey who did everything possible daily in his power to make sure dad had the best care and most comfortable last couple years of his live... Thank You! You've been our Rock. Thank you to the staff of the Southern Utah Veterans Home, journey of Hope Hospice and all those at Serenity Funeral home.

Services for Bruce Clovis Smith will be held Friday September 04, 2015 at the Serenity Funeral Home St. George. Viewing begins at 10AM. Service to commence at 10:30AM.

Please do not send flowers. Please send your contributions to [www.govetsfou](http://www.govetsfou)

ndation.org or your favorite charity.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

SEP 4. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Serenity Funeral Home  
1316 South 400 East A-5  
Saint George, UT 84790  
<http://www.serenitystg.com>

## Funeral Mass

SEP 4. 10:30 AM (MT)

Serenity Funeral Home  
1316 South 400 East A-5  
Saint George, UT 84790  
<http://www.serenitystg.com>

# Tribute Wall

EM

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute to Bruce*



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**Emma** - June 25, 2020 at 02:05 AM

EM

“ *I never met Bruce Clovis Smith, but somehow I am in possession of one of his paintings. I really don't even know the title of this painting, only that I was drawn to the Indian artwork and the movement of the dance. If anyone can share more information about Mr Smith and his work, I would really appreciate it. Please contact me at [schleiss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schleiss@sbcglobal.net).*

*I am so sorry that he has passed from this world. Thank you much.  
Emma Schleiss*

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**Emma** - June 25, 2020 at 02:01 AM

KM

*Dearest Emma,  
My name is Karissa. I am Bruce's daughter.  
I know the name, story and original whereabouts of the original.  
The name of this piece is "WindWalker".  
It depicts one Indians life.  
As you see him first fading into the stage of life. Then as he grows, he becomes stronger, developing into a grown man. As time and stages pass, he begins to age. At last, he fades back to the heavens from where he came.  
This was the first of a series dad was painting. All were brilliant with an amazing tale.  
Dad ALWAYS did his homework when it came to cultures and history or historic pieces. He has an acute attention to detail that was important to him when it came to everything he did in life.  
Thank you so much for sharing and reaching out. It mages me feel warm that it moved you so.  
It is a great honor to have you appreciate his work.  
I have several copies of the WindWalker if anyone else is interested.*

*Thank you, Emma.  
I hope to hear back from you as soon as possible.*

*Sincerely,  
Karissa  
karissaymaloy@gmail.com*

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**Karissa Maloy** - May 16, 2022 at 04:13 AM

KS

*Hello Karissa  
I don't know if this site will notify you about my note but I also had some questions about a painting of your fathers. It is a picture of a wagon with 2 cowboys driving it onto an adobe town with one of the drivers holding a rifle. It is an oil on canvas but very smooth so although they say it's original I have my doubts... now that I see you have extra copies of the windwalker, are they on canvas or paper and are they for sale?  
Beautiful work and he sounds like he was an interesting and lovely man.  
Karen*

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**Karen Simonton** - August 09, 2025 at 02:17 AM

HB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Hank Brown** - February 24, 2019 at 07:05 PM

KM

*Thank you, Hank for sharing these with the world!  
You are an amazing cowboy model!*

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**Karissa Maloy** - May 16, 2022 at 04:01 AM

“ **BRUCE CLOVIS SMITH**  
(September 3, 1935 – August 29, 2015)

*I was a friend of Bruce's for more than 30 years when we both lived in the Denver area. Several years ago we dispersed in different directions – Bruce to St. George, Utah and me to Kansas City – so I was unaware of his death until after the funeral when I was contacted by his daughter, Karissa Ramsey. It only recently occurred to me to seek out his obituary and add a tribute, which I am now doing three and a half years after his death.*

*Bruce and I met in the barber's chair when I became a regular customer of his. We developed a profound friendship over time as we discovered each of us shared the same disappointment of being born too late for the cowboy era. We captured as much of it as possible in the modern era, however, with Bruce painting it, and both of us, together with another friend, Dan Hesser, living it to the extent possible. Dan was a prominent Denver business executive and philanthropist and former CEO of Invesco Mutual Funds. He died the death of a cowboy, killed in a horseback riding incident in 2003. Ironically, Bruce, who was an experienced horseman, had advised Dan to get rid of the horse that eventually killed him.*

*Many of Bruce's pictures were painted from pictures I had either taken for him from a cattle drive, or ones I had posed for him. He and his paintings were featured in several national publications, including "Western Horseman". In addition to the magazines, several of his paintings also grace the walls of my home today and present me a fond remembrance on a daily basis of the warm friendship I enjoyed with their creator. I've included photos of them here.*

*Rest in peace my friend! I treasure the memories of you.*

*Hank Brown*

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**Hank Brown** - February 24, 2019 at 06:51 PM

KM

*Your tribute and love warms my soul, Hank.  
What an honor it is to know you.  
Thank you for being such a great friend to dad and support to the family.*

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**Karissa Maloy** - May 16, 2022 at 04:20 AM

SB

“ *Bruce and I lived in the same household during our early grade school years. His mother and my mother were loving sisters. Bruce and I spent many years playing together as children. along with his beloved teddy bear, Teefer, and continued to be close friends throughout our high school years.*

*We spent several summers together at our Grandmother's home in Summit, Arkansas.*

*I am so pleased to hear that my dear cousin was a good father and grandfather, as well as a valued member of his church and community.*

*Love to his family from*

*Sandra "Sandy" Culbertson Baletracci*

*1699 Park Ave., 4N*

*Jacksonville, FL 32073*

*sbalestracci@bellsouth.net*

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**Sandra Balestracci** - November 19, 2016 at 01:07 PM

TR

“ *1 file added to the album Tribute to Bruce*



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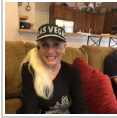
**Tim Ramsey** - September 02, 2016 at 01:06 AM

KM

“ *This is the one year anniversary of my beloved fathers death. He was a good man who trusted everyone and he will never be forgotten .*

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**kamin mccune** - August 29, 2016 at 04:51 PM



*Still thinking about my dear cousin, Bruce Clovis Smith whom I loved very much. Sandra Balestracci sbalestracci@bellsouth.net*

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**Sandra Balestracci** - June 01, 2017 at 08:35 PM