



## Gene Dawayne Smith

April 30, 1931 - March 7, 2026

Gene Dawayne Smith, age 94, lifelong resident of Newcastle, passed away in the early morning hours of March 7, 2026. He was one of two children born to M.M. Smith and Margaret Elder Woods Smith of Newcastle, OK. One of Gene's greatest delights was being a younger "annoyance" brother to his older sister, Wilma Grace Smith Wilds.

Gene was born in Newcastle, OK, on April 30, 1931, in the house he has lived in most of his life. One of his last wishes was to die in that house, which he did. He attended Newcastle Schools, graduating with the Racer Class of 1949. He worked most of his young life in M. M. Smith General Store, hauling flour, and etc. He participated in Newcastle Band, FFA, sports and drove the school bus on daily routes as well as many school trips. He also worked as a farmer on the family farm that was founded in 1928 as soon as he was old enough. While in high school, he had an eye on a young girl who was also a graduate of Newcastle High School with the Racer Class of 1953. A month after she graduated, Mary Ellen Martin and Gene were married on June 19, 1953, in Oklahoma City, OK and started a life together for 45 years until she passed in 1998. Square Dancing was a large part of their lives. He spent 20 years working at FAA, sold Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance, ran a Mobil Gas Station and sold Amsoil. He was the owner of Green Light Auto Supply in the 1970's. Whatever it took to take care of his family, he did it. Gene worked on the family farm raising cotton, wheat, corn, pigs and beef cattle since he

was 15 years old. Driving his John Deere tractor and working the fields was one of his greatest pleasures. In recent years, he could be seen on his zero-turn John Deere mower or John Deere Gator, driving north on the west side of Main Street in Newcastle. Gene was active in his community. He served 10 years on the Newcastle School Board, supported the Newcastle FFA program and attended countless Ag bonus auctions. He worked on elections at the Newcastle Precinct and was a member of the McClain County Fair Board. He was a man of faith; he grew up in the Primitive Baptist Church. Gene loved and supported his children and grandchildren in all of their school activities. He was respected by the community of Newcastle and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; M.M. and Elder Smith; sister, Wilma Wilds; his wife, Mary Ellen and many other cousins, aunts and uncles.

He is survived by his three children: daughters, Brenda Gladney and husband Kenneth of Newcastle, Anita Stair and husband Roger of Claremore and son, Dawayne Smith and wife Sherry of Newcastle. Six grandchildren and spouses; Cody and Ashley Gladney of Frisco, TX, Bradley and Megan Stair of Edmond, Heidi and Brady Vogel of Farmers Branch, TX, Sarah and Andy Fiegener of Claremore, Laura and Clint Howell of Newcastle and Matthew and Emma Smith of Anderson, South Carolina. Eight great grandchildren; Charley Gladney, Cade Gladney, Crosby Stair, Reed Howell, Henley Howell, Callan Gene Smith, Parks Smith and Miriam Smith. He is also survived by two brothers-in-law, Devohn Martin and wife Doris of Newcastle and Herbert Ray Martin of Newcastle. Two sisters-in-law, Judy Martin of Newcastle, Vernetta Martin of Florida, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Visitation with family and friends will be at Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Newcastle from 5-7pm Thursday, March 12, 2026. His family will have a

private burial on Friday morning at Fairview Cemetery in Tuttle. His Funeral Memorial Service will be at 2 PM Friday, March 13, 2026 at the Newcastle High School Auditorium. Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

1001 East Rock Creek Road  
Tuttle, OK 73089

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wilson-Little ~ Tri-City  
3132 Tri-City Avenue  
Newcastle, OK 73065  
(405) 387-2243

## Memorial Service

MAR 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Newcastle High School Auditorium  
101 N Main St  
Newcastle, OK 73065

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ *It has been an honor and a blessing to know Gene Smith. He had a way to let you know you were important to him and that he cared. His enduring smile radiated from his heart. God’s light shined brightly through him...whether it be through the love and care of the land, the love and devotion to Mary, the love of family, to living each day with intention and care. He will be greatly missed...as we all will remain greatly blessed from having had him in our lives.*

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**Janice Gunter** - March 15 at 08:49 AM



“ Only God could create such an awesome, selfless, hardworking, kind, humble man! That was Uncle Gene! A pillar of strength who offered leadership and kinship without an ounce of return expectations! He encouraged, expressed proudness and disappointment in a manner of growth! He Taught me to square dance, drive a tractor, work the cows, shared financial advice and carried a smile in his soul he shared with everyone who passed him on his earthly journey! A greater man, like my daddy, was nought! I love you, Uncle Gene and my successes, you admired; my failures, you calmed; and our family grew with your strength and encouragement! A town silently sheds a tear as you did each time you spoke of Aunt Mary, for Newcastle is The Smith’s Town! Your son will carry on as the patriarch of your family and your girls have already taken their place as the Matriarchs, soon after we lost Aunt Mary. Your grands, great grands, nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends will miss you and know a legend was theirs in Gene Smith. Our heart aches our loss, yet we know what kind of greeting you had last Friday in heaven! Rest in peace, with Aunt Mary, those who have gone in before you and wait for us as one days we will join you! I can hear the laughter and joy! I can feel your protection as our guardian angels have increased! Hugs to dad, mom, Joe and the rest of our gang. We are thanking God he trusted you with us as; well done, my faithful servant and welcome, I’m sure you heard! Loved you since I can remember and until I join you! ❤️Debi

Debi Vickery Carner - March 10 at 04:08 AM



“ He was always smiling and had a joke and just made the whole room shine when he was in it usually was very kind treat people respect and dignity and loved his family as well as his in-laws and outlaws and cousins and all those things the great man



Loyd Vickery - March 09 at 11:14 PM

DM

“ Gene was my first baseball coach in summer ball. What a gentleman! We banked at the same credit union and I would see him quite often. He will be missed. The last few years I think of him often. RIP Gene and God speed.

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**David McCray** - March 09 at 10:57 PM

KC

Gene was one fine man. Very involved in the community. I got to drive one of those John Deere tractors for him in the summer of '63 and remember shopping at his dad's store before Mr Petty bought it.

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**Kay Cable** - March 10 at 04:26 PM