



## Lt. Col. Mark Jason Smith (USAFR)

January 27, 1971 - August 7, 2019

Lt. Col. Mark Jason Smith (USAFR), 48, of Summerville, husband of Ashley Goldstein Smith, passed away on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at his residence.

Family and friends are invited to attend his visitation on Saturday, August 10, 2019 from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. Funeral services will be Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 2 o'clock at St. Paul's of Summerville, 316 W Carolina Ave, Summerville, SC 29483.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Service Before Self Foundation, PayPal at [donations@sbsfsc.org](mailto:donations@sbsfsc.org) or mailed to 170 meeting St., Suite 110, Charleston, SC 29401.

Mark was born on January 27, 1971 in Richardson, TX, son of the late Charles Benedict Smith and Mary Frances Smith of Kennesaw, GA. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1995. He was a member of the 317th Airlift Squadron. He was an avid hunter and was a member of F3 of Summerville.

Survivors in addition to his wife Ashley of 17 years and mother Mary are: one daughter: Sara Smith of Summerville; one son: Ben Smith; and two sisters: Lynn Muster (Jim) of Marietta, GA and Kristen Smith of Vancouver, WA.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com).

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH  
MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **10**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home  
303 S. Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(843) 873-4040  
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

## Service

AUG **11**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Summerville  
316 West Carolina Avenue  
Summerville, SC 29483

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lt. Col. Mark Jason Smith (USAFR)*

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ *Prayers and our deepest sympathies to your family.  
Lisa Caulder and family*

**lisa caulder** - August 14, 2019 at 10:23 PM



“ *With Love, Tracie Hall and Boys purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lt. Col. Mark Jason Smith (USAFR).*



**With Love, Tracie Hall and Boys** - August 11, 2019 at 07:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. Mark Jason Smith (USAFR).*



August 10, 2019 at 01:47 PM

ET

“ I’m going to miss Mark. Like many of the members of the 317th would say, Mark is family. And that truth is as clear as the emotions I feel right now. I never really knew what I was getting into when I joined the Air Force so many years ago, or even later with the Air Force Reserves as a member of the 317th Airlift Squadron. But after 28 years, what I can tell you is this: it is, and will always be, because of the friendships that were forged during our service together, that makes Mark feel like my brother. And as Ashley, and all of his extended family gather around this weekend to remember Mark and how important he was in all of our lives, I just want you to know how proud I am to have served alongside Mark, call him my friend, and I am better for knowing him.

*Ed Taillon*

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**Ed Taillon** - August 10, 2019 at 01:51 AM

LR

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Ashley, Sara and Ben. Sara, getting to know your dad in the two years I taught you in first and second grade was a great honor! He was a great father to you and Ben! He is going to be missed by many! Thinking about you and your family every day.

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**Leslie Ratliff** - August 10, 2019 at 12:55 AM

CH

“ Sending all our love and support for as long as it takes.

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**Chris Heimerdinger** - August 09, 2019 at 03:06 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Mark was a pleasure to be around and fly with, he will be missed.  
Sincerely,  
Bill  
UPS*

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**B** - August 08, 2019 at 05:50 PM



“ *11 files added to the tribute wall*

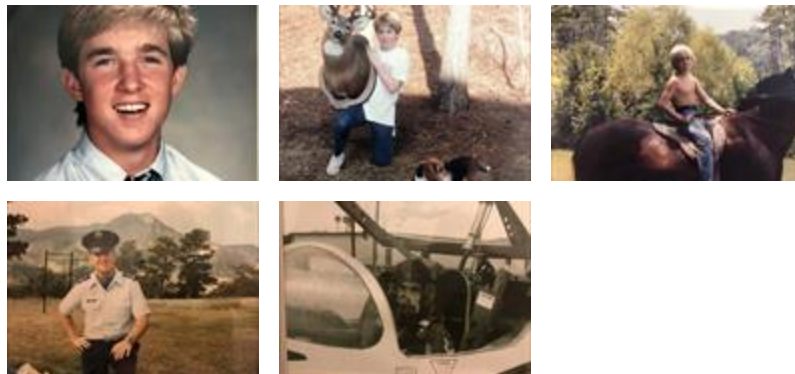


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**Lynn Muster** - August 08, 2019 at 01:02 PM



“ *6 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Lynn Muster** - August 08, 2019 at 12:53 PM

KS

“ Like most little boys, Mark had dreams of being many different things while growing up. At the age of 3, he wanted to be a firemoon (fireman). Soon after, he discovered treasures in the trash when hanging out with his buddy "big Mark" and decided he wanted to be a garbage man. Needless to say, we were all rather happy he chose a different path!

Mark eventually became fascinated with planes and set his sights to the skies. This dream never wavered. Mark's parents worked hard with him to help this dream become a reality. With private flying lessons and getting him into one of the top private high schools, Mark was set on a course for success. During Mark's senior year, while discussing future career options with his counselor, she told Mark that he would never get into the Air Force Academy. It was in that moment Mark set out to prove her wrong with the grit and determination he was so well known for.

The application process for the Air Force Academy was a long and arduous task. However, with the backing of the USAFA tennis coach, his nomination by Senator Sam Nunn, as well as Mark's tenacity and perseverance, Mark succeeded in securing the future he always wanted for himself. The rest, as they say, is history.

We are so proud of the boy, the man, the son, the husband, the father, the brother, the uncle, the cousin, the patriot and the friend that Mark became. We are so proud of him and he will be so greatly missed.

*In loving memory,*

*The Smiths*

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**Kristen Smith** - August 08, 2019 at 12:34 PM

VT

“ VSP Onsite Clinics Team purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Lt. Col. Mark Jason Smith (USAFR).



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**VSP Onsite Clinics Team** - August 08, 2019 at 11:55 AM

LS

“ Although words seem inadequate at a time like this, I must be say I am profoundly sorry for your loss of a great husband and father. He will be missed by all who knew and worked with him.

*Sincerely,*

*Lisa Sweatt  
315 Airlift Wing, Retired*

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**Lisa A Sweatt** - August 08, 2019 at 11:36 AM



“ Please accept my heart felt sympathy. I'm so very sorry for your loss.

*Sincerely,*

*Harriet Cox Hetzel*

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**Harriet Hetzel** - August 08, 2019 at 09:50 AM



“ Mark, you made such a positive impact on so many lives during your short time with us, including my own. We flew some awesome missions and I want you to know I will never forget our time together.

*I remember one time we were running around some strange city in another country, having a blast of course. We sat on the curb and you proceeded to tell me how much potential I had and how you saw it within me to achieve great things. Your words resonated with me on such a deep level. I walked away from that conversation with a new outlook on life and have flourished ever since.*

*A couple years later, on one of our local training flights, you had, what I thought, was the coolest can coozie I had ever seen. I asked where you got it and you didn't even blink for a second and told me to take it. That was about 8 years ago. To this day, I carry that coozie on every trip and every event I go to. It reminds me of the guy who changed my life with a few kind words and one simple gesture.*

*Losing you is devastating, but we will persevere and continue to do great things in your honor.*

*I look forward to flying with you again some day my friend. Until then, please watch over us and keep us safe.*

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**Michael Chuzie** - August 07, 2019 at 07:46 PM