



## Kyle Howard Smith

July 20, 1956 - May 12, 2026

Kyle Howard Smith, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on May 12, 2026 in Eagle Lake, Texas. He was born on July 20, 1956, in Bay City, Texas, to Frank Howard Smith and Joy Kyle Smith.

Kyle grew up in Bay City, graduating in 1974. He worked hard from an early age, starting a job at HEB as a teen. That same drive carried him to Wharton County Junior College and Southwest Texas State University, where he earned a BBA in Management in 1978.

Kyle met Laura Lynn Whitsett during college, and on June 30, 1979, they were married at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Wharton.

Kyle's career was defined by hard work, leadership, and service to the communities he called home. He rose through the ranks at HEB to become a store director, relocating with Laura from Victoria to Port Lavaca, Kingsville, Corpus Christi, and finally El Campo, where the family put down roots in 1985. He later served as manager of the El Campo Chamber of Commerce and the first general manager of the Cardell Kitchen and Bath Cabinetry plant. He was Director of Operations at Greenleaf Nursery before his final professional chapter at University of Houston Small Business Development Center, serving Matagorda and Wharton Counties from 2007 until his retirement in 2018.

Outside of work, Kyle gave generously to the El Campo community. He served on the City Council, supported the Boys and Girls Club, coached Little League, and was a proud and dedicated member of El Campo Rotary, where he served as President. He attended First Baptist Church of El Campo.

Kyle loved sports with an unabashed and lifelong devotion -- playing basketball and golf, coaching kids' baseball, and cheering hard for the Astros, the Rockets, and the Texans. He adored his grandchildren, who called him PawPaw, and delighted in every chance he got to see them.

In 2020, Kyle was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He faced it with characteristic steadiness, and his family surrounded him with the same love and loyalty he had given them his entire life.

Kyle is survived by his wife, Laura Smith, of El Campo; his daughters, Erin Young and her husband Brant Young of Katy, Texas, and Megan Baker and her husband Scott Baker of College Station, Texas; his grandchildren, Greyson and Clayton Young, and Brady and Brooks Baker; his sisters, Gay Easterly and her husband Glenn of Groesbeck, Texas; Mary Ann Smith Knowles of Groesbeck, Texas; and Jacqueline Webber and her husband Kelly of Bay City, Texas; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and extended family. He was preceded in death by his mother, his father, and his brother, Frank Smith Jr.

A memorial service will be held at Triska Funeral Home in El Campo on May 30, 2026. Visitation will begin at 10am with a service at 11am.

The family would like to give special thanks to Arbor Hills Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Eagle Lake, Texas, and the supportive caregivers who helped care for Kyle in his final months, especially Laurie Palacios and Bryan Barrow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Kyle's memory to Houston Hospice, or the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network (DIAN) research program at Washington University in St. Louis, in support of research that may one day spare other families from this disease.

# Upcoming Events

## Visitation

**MAY 30** (CT)

Triska Funeral Home  
612 Merchant Street  
El Campo, TX 77437-3440  
(979) 543-3681  
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

## Memorial Service

**MAY 30** (CT)

Triska Funeral Home  
612 Merchant Street  
El Campo, TX 77437-3440  
(979) 543-3681  
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

# Tribute Wall

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“ 🙏❤️ ☐ *May his soul rest in peace and the angels guide him to paradise!* ❤️ ☐ 🙏



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**Daniel & Roxane Marek** - 2 hours ago