



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.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

MAY **30** (CT)

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612 Merchant Street
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Tribute Wall

MB

“ Mike & Linda Baker purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kyle Howard Smith.



Mike & Linda Baker - May 26 at 01:14 PM

MB

“ Mike & Linda Baker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyle Howard Smith.

Mike & Linda Baker - May 26 at 01:14 PM

MK

“ My brother, my friend, my childhood buddy, the memories we made will last forever ...

Mary Ann Knowles - May 23 at 04:49 PM

TR

“ Terry Rutherford lit a candle in memory of Kyle Howard Smith



Terry Rutherford - May 23 at 12:22 AM

VA

“ Please accept our sincere condolences.

Visiting Angels - May 22 at 11:55 PM

JW

“ Jackie W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyle Howard Smith.

Jackie W. - May 22 at 10:19 AM



“ Anita Roye lit a candle in memory of Kyle Howard Smith



Anita Roye - May 20 at 06:19 PM

MS

“ Martin Strarup lit a candle in memory of Kyle Howard Smith



Martin Strarup - May 15 at 08:42 PM

FO

“ Frank. @. Joann. Olsovsky lit a candle in memory of Kyle Howard Smith



Frank. @. Joann. Olsovsky - May 15 at 11:30 AM

JN

“ Jeff, N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyle Howard Smith.

Jeff, N. - May 15 at 09:58 AM

HM

“ Hayden and Maria purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Kyle Howard Smith.



Hayden and Maria - May 14 at 05:39 PM

HM

“ Hayden and Maria planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyle Howard Smith.

Hayden and Maria - May 14 at 05:39 PM

KH

“ Karen/Sheldon Holub lit a candle in memory of Kyle Howard Smith



Karen/Sheldon Holub - May 14 at 04:48 PM

DM

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



Daniel & Roxane Marek - May 14 at 12:30 PM

RW

My deepest sympathy to the family very much with a friend of his and an usher at the first Baptist Church with him for many years I will deeply miss him Robert and Angela Wagner

Robert Wagner - May 18 at 08:15 PM