

Gideon Bernard Smith



Lieutenant Colonel Gid B. Smith, USMC (Ret.), died peacefully surrounded by his family at his Yucca Valley, CA, home on 7 April 2022. He was 85 years old.

Gid was born on 19 December 1936 to Hiram and Hortense Ann Smith in Waco, TX. He grew up on a farm in Smith Bend, TX, and attended elementary and high school in Clifton, TX. He attended Texas A&M University for one year prior to receiving his congressional appointment to the Naval Academy from Texas. At Annapolis, he was First Regimental Sub-Commander and Second Battalion Sub-Commander and graduated with the Class in June of 1960 as a member of the Seventh Company.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a combat veteran and retired from the Marine Corps in 1982.

In 1983, he started a training company in Anaheim, CA. He was a professional speaker and seminar leader. In 1996, he moved to Yucca Valley, CA, where he conducted youth and adult tennis programs throughout the Morongo Basin. He developed a 12-week, life-skills and tennis program for youth, "Winning in Tennis – Leadership – Life," which has received national recognition by the U.S. Tennis Association. In 2011 he was honored as Yucca Valley's Hometown Hero for his 15 years of volunteer work in youth tennis. He authored two books, *Gideon's Tales*, Memories of a boy growing up on a Texas farm and *Winning the Journey with Agent Orange Cancer*.

Gid is survived by his son, Jeff; daughter, Esta; granddaughters, Jessica and Erica; and great-granddaughter, Autumn.

June 2022 Shipmate