

[August 05, 2009 2:00AM](#)

James I. Smith

Posted Aug. 5, 2009 @ 2:00 am

Updated Apr 26, 2011 at 5:26 PM

James I. Smith, 84, went to be with the Lord Friday, July 31, 2009 at home.



He was born in Baltimore, Md, May 16, 1925 to James and Ruth Smith. At age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and participated in the invasions at Iwo Jima and Okinawa aboard the LST 884. His ship was hit by a Kamikaze April 1, 1945.

After the war he was sent to California where he was introduced to his wife-to-be, Margarett, by a mutual friend at a church taffy pull. They were married June 27, 1946 in Glendale, Calif. They made their home in the Los Angeles area for 10 years. During those years he worked for Helms Bakery delivering bread on neighborhood routes.

In 1956, the family moved to Ventura, Calif., because of a job transfer with Helms and was happy to settle in the small beach community. In 1962, they opened the Pastry Palace Bakery where Jim and Margarett worked together with their children until their retirement in 1988. They traded their long hours in the bakery for a good time on the road in their new RV. They made several trips across the country and saw every state in the continental U.S. They were members and actively involved in Ventura Missionary Church for over 30 years.

In 2000, Jim and Margarett moved to Medford, Ore., to be closer to family. They continued to travel and enjoy their years together.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Margarett. He is survived and will be greatly missed by his three children, Jim, Jr. (Elaine), Tim (Star) and Cindy (Doug); nine grandchildren, that were a great joy in his life, Shelbie (Morgan), Leigh Anne (Eric), TJ (Karen), Stephanie (Travis), Thaddaeus (Amy), Michael (Jennifer), Stephen (Holly), Amanda and Matthew; and nine great-grandchildren, that were a blessing to him, Jasper, Micah, Emma, Chaya, Silas, Andrew, Chloe, Katie and Caleb.

Services will be Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 11 a.m. at Medford First Church of the Nazarene, 1974 E. McAndrews Rd, Medford, OR 97504. Interment will follow at Eagle Point National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Medford First Church of the Nazarene Building Fund.