



Dr. Charles (Charlie) Smith



Charles Edward Smith was born on October 11, 1942, in Waynesville, North Carolina. At a young age, his family moved to Newport News, Virginia where his father began working in the shipyard. At the age of 10, Charlie began selling newspapers at the main entrance of the shipyard when the workers arrived at 4:00 in the morning to go to work. This he continued to do throughout his teenage years saving enough money for his first two years of college.

Charlie attended Newport News High School where he excelled in math & science receiving the prestigious Slide Rule Award for his ability in science. Charlie was also an outstanding athlete in track, football & most notably-discus - a record he held for many years.

In 1961, Charlie attended the Virginia Military Institute -VMI - located in Lexington, VA in the Shenandoah Valley. The institution, established in 1839, would prove to be a major influence in his life. Upon entry, the young cadets were bound by the Institution's honour code, "A Cadet will not lie, cheat, steal nor tolerate those who do." A code to which he adhered.

However, the motivational words of General Stonewall Jackson, "You may be whatever you resolve to be" would become the mantra Charlie would live by & guided his success in life.

In 1965, Charlie graduated from VMI with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering & was

commissioned as a Lieutenant in The United States Army. After obtaining a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from The Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia in 1967, Charlie volunteered to serve his country by going to Vietnam.

Charlie served in The United States Army Corps of Engineers. He was awarded the Bronze Star & The Army Commendation Medal along with the Vietnam Service Ribbon. He distinguished himself by outstanding service in connection with ground operations against a hostile foe. Through his untiring efforts & professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge materially contributed to the efforts of the US mission to The Republic of Vietnam. In addition, his design & leadership to protect the ships at Cam Ranh Bay was successful in keeping those ships safe as they moved into the harbour & from incoming fire from hostile forces. He was also recognized for designing a new structure for some bridges that allowed our forces safer & faster transport.

Upon completion of his tour, Charlie returned to The United States & continued to serve in the National Cemeteries- specially Radford, Virginia & Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. Upon completion of his military duty, Charlie went on to have a long & illustrious career

with The United States Federal Government but not before obtaining another two degrees:

A Master of Applied Mechanics from The University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA; And a Doctor of Science from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Charlie joined The Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, in 1981. He was responsible for formulating & directing technology assessment & research initiatives-particularly in the design of offshore structures- & went on to make major contributions to support safe offshore natural gas & oil operations. In 1996, he was named as the Department's Engineer of the Year. He was a registered professional engineer in Virginia, the co-author of numerous technical papers, a member of the Tau Beta Pi Honor Society & listed in Who's Who in Science & Engineering. He was a member of the US Japan Cooperative Science Origram, the American Concrete Institute, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Testing & Materials & the Society of American Military Engineers.

Dr. Smith was also known both nationally & internationally for his expertise in ocean, offshore & arctic engineering.

In 2009, the year of his retirement from Minerals Management Service, he was inducted into The Offshore Energy Center's

Hall of Fame in Galveston, Texas.

After his retirement, he & his wife Elaine moved to Newfoundland where he continued working on offshore safety issues with Memorial University, Canadian regulators & industry representatives. He was also very active in & proud of his work with Ocean Offshore & Arctic Engineering (OOAE) & Ocean Mechanics & Arctic Engineering (OMAE)

In 2021, in his honour, Memorial University of Newfoundland & Labrador established The Dr. Charles Smith Memorial Award in Engineering in memory & recognition of his dedicated contributions to Ocean, Offshore & Arctic Engineering.

Charlie was a member of both the American & Canadian legions.

In the United States, he was a member for 47 continuous years at American Legion Post 180 in Vienna, VA. In Canada, he was an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23 in Bay Roberts, NL.

Charlie was also a proud Mason.

In the United States, Worshipful Charles E. Smith PM, was a member of the Haymarket Masonic Lodge #313, A.F. & A.M., GL of Virginia, located in Haymarket, Virginia. In Canada, he was an active member of Lodge McLeod # 27, A.F. & A.M.; GL of Newfoundland & Labrador, located in Coley's Point, Newfoundland.

His other interests included being a member of The Stuart-Mosby Historical Society located in Centreville, VA. As well as being a member of The Crow's Nest Officers' Club located in St. John's, NL.

Charlie held dual citizenship in both Canada & the United States.

Charlie loved his life in Coley's Point, Newfoundland. The challenges of the weather the Newfoundland lifestyle presented were eagerly & zestfully embraced as he mowed his beautiful lawn in the summertime & cleared mounds of snow precisely & evenly in winter.

He & his wife, Elaine enjoyed many happy times welcoming friends & family into their home overlooking the Atlantic Ocean- cooking, watching football, entertaining & enjoying a good glass of wine. His was a life well lived & wholly appreciated.

A week before his passing in December 2021, Charlie held a "living wake" at his home where close friends & loved ones were invited to come & listen to the music of Larry Foley- all were encouraged to laugh & dance & enjoy the beauty of life.

Charlie passed away on December 9, 2021. A Memorial Service was held in Bay

Roberts, Newfoundland & Labrador on December 13, 2021, after which his remains were transported back to the United States, as per his wishes.

His funeral took place on January 6th, 2022 at Concord Baptist Church in Farmville, Virginia with full Military Honours performed by an Honour Guard from the United States Army. Following these honours, a Masonic Graveside Service was given by members of his Virginia Lodge & other Freemasons.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Elaine, in Coley's Point, Newfoundland & Labrador. As well as his daughter, Charlan, her husband, Michael & two grandsons, Jackson & Dalton of Haymarket, Virginia.



Charlie's Bronze Star



U.S. Army Commendation Medal