



# Joe Van Smitherman

OCT 6, 1936 - DEC 24, 2010



Scan to Visit

*Rader*  
FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



# Joe Van Smitherman

OCT 6, 1936 - DEC 24, 2010

**J**oe Van Smitherman, 74, of Longview, Texas passed away December 21, 2010 at Margaret's House following a long battle with cancer.

Joe Van was born October 6, 1936 in Longview, Texas. He attended Judson High School, and graduated from Texas A&M in 1958. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, and attended Rotary Wing Aviator School in Fort Wolters, Texas. Following his graduation, he was assigned to the aviation unit at Miller Field on Staten Island, New York. He met his wife Linda Wilson Smitherman while there, and they were married February 11, 1961.

Joe Van continued his career in the Army, serving his country for more than two decades. He helped pioneer the use of helicopters by the Army. He completed two tours of duty in Viet Nam, serving as a Helicopter Pilot, Infantry Liason Officer and Company Commander in the 1st Air Cavalry Division. For his service he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals, and the Presidential Unit Citation. He also served two tours in Korea.

After retiring from the Army, Joe Van worked on the family farm raising cattle. He was the Scoutmaster of Troop 620 for 30 years and served as the Troop Chairman until he passed away.

He is survived by his wife, Linda W. Smitherman, sons Jody Smitherman, wife Cynthia, and granddaughter Matney; Mark Smitherman, wife Sarah, grandson Taylor and granddaughter Meghan; Jeffery Smitherman, wife Nagelle and grandsons Cullen, Jack and Nate. He is also survived by an extensive family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Joe Van was preceded in death by his father Joseph C. Smitherman, and mother Ollie B Smitherman.

A visitation will be held at Rader Funeral Home on 27 December from 6 to 8 PM.. Services will be held at Winterfield United Methodist Church on Tryon Road at 2:00 PM on the 28th of



## Obituary

**Joe Van Smitherman**

OCT 6, 1936 - DEC 24, 2010

---

December. Burial will follow in Winterfield Cemetery where Ft. Hood AMRY Base will present full military honors. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Winterfield United Methodist Church or Margaret's House are requested.



## Tribute Wall

**Joe Van Smitherman**

OCT 6, 1936 - DEC 24, 2010



**Anonymous** posted:

I never met Joes kids but did meet Linda oh so long ago just before she married Joe. I was there at Miller Field when Joe reported in and he became the Supply Officer as a side duty to his flying. I was his clerk. Joe was an unforgettable guy in many ways. I have so many memories of him tucked away...all of them good ones. Saw Joe many years ago when we were in Longview and we all went out to see how a newborn calf was doing. Wish I had my camera with me in those days to catch him standing with my son who had his arm around the calfs neck like old buddies. We all sat under the big tree out there and ran memories up the flag pole. Went to Vietnam with Joe in 65. We shared those memories and he flew my Chinook once. More stories than there is room in this little block. Kids, you had a heck of a great man for your father. Linda, you knew he was a good man and roped him in. You watched him and helped him mature into an older Gentleman from the young Gentleman his parents raised up.##imported-begin##Arnold ##imported-end##

January 2 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jeff and Family,I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May your memories bring you peace. God bless you.Alicia and Jay Wilson##imported-begin##Alicia Wilson##imported-end##

January 1 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jeff & FamilyMy thoughts and prayers are with you and your family even more for your children. The smiles that your children could have put on your fathers face they are the things that make you proud to be a father will hurt you the most, you have already made him smile many times and you will have those memories with you forever.##imported-begin##Tommy Brown##imported-end##

December 27 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Smitherman Family, I knew Joe Van only through the Deep East Texas A&M Club, and as you know, Aggies support Aggies. I truly enjoyed his company and he will be missed....I silently played TAPS in my own mind for him.....my thoughts and prayers are with you.Wayne B. Dolive'50##imported-begin##Wayne B. Dolive##imported-end##

December 27 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Joe Van Smitherman**

OCT 6, 1936 - DEC 24, 2010



**Anonymous** posted:

Never a better friend or Scout Master. We will all miss him.##imported-begin##Preston & Rosemaey Brown##imported-end##

December 26 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To Jeff and your family,I was so sorry to hear of your loss and will keep your family in my thoughts!##imported-begin##Shelia Parr Sexton##imported-end##

December 26 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Linda and family,My prayers are with you during this time. When I joined Winterfield and became involved as a Lay Minister, you and Joe Van were always there to support and encourage me. On those Sunday's when my turn came to serve I knew you all were watching from the choir loft -- like guardian angels!! loved Joe Van so much and I know he will continue to watch over all of us from above.I hope you all will find comfort in knowing what a difference he made in my life -- and I know there are so many others for whom Joe Van's remarkable influence will be felt always.Love,Julie Wert Rigby##imported-begin##Julie Rigby##imported-end##

December 26 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Linda and Sons, Our heart goes out to you at this time of Sorrow. Joe Van was a special person and will be missed. Love Howard and Ginger Holland##imported-begin##Howard and Ginger Holland##imported-end##

December 26 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Linda, I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you have my sympathy and prayers during this sad time.Katherine##imported-begin##Katherine Wilson##imported-end##

December 25 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Joe Van Smitherman**

OCT 6, 1936 - DEC 24, 2010



**Anonymous** posted:

Linda & Family, Our prayers go up for you and your family. There is not much we can say that would enhance the life that Joe Van exhibited toward all he encountered. He lived what he believed, taught by example and loved with all his heart. Everyone who knew him will miss him until we meet again at the feet of Christ. Love you all, Dean & Shirley##imported-begin##Dean & Shirley McDowell##imported-end##

December 25 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I am very sorry your loss but through Christ there is no loss but gain. I love yaJohn Simons##imported-begin##John Simons##imported-end##

December 24 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

If I could have conjured a big brother, it would have been JoeVan. He was fearsome and gentle, had an amazing sense of humor and yet was often serious, had a sensible and nonsensical outlook on life, and was a treasure beyond any measurable value. I have many fond memories of him and the family he shared with mine. You were well loved, Joe Van, and will be missed.##imported-begin##Ruth Ann Singer-Schmidt##imported-end##

December 23 at 7:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joe by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

*Rader*  
FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON