



Chester Ray Smith

January 19, 2026

With gratitude for a life well lived, we celebrate the life and memory of Chester Ray Smith, who passed away peacefully on January 19, 2026. Chester was 81 years old.

Chester was born on August 21, 1944, in East Freedom, Pennsylvania, to Alphus Smith and Beatrice Dodson, both of whom precede him in death. He was raised and educated in Pennsylvania public schools, where he began a lifelong pattern of forming friendships wherever he went - a trait that followed him throughout his life.

Chester lived a good, full life, marked by kindness, humor, and a calm, steady presence that brought comfort to those around him. He was known for his quick wit and warm sense of humor - you always knew when Chester entered a room. His laughter, stories, and genuine interest in people made strangers feel like friends and friends feel like family.

He spent his professional career with the Virginia Department of Transportation, from which he proudly retired. In retirement, Chester continued doing what he did best: connecting with people, caring for others, and enjoying the simple joys of everyday life.

Chester is survived by his companion and best friend, Keela Edwards of

Lorton, Virginia; his God-daughter, Autumn Coleman; and his best friend, Nathan McKoy. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Evelyn, who resides in Pennsylvania, along with a host of dear friends - including his brothers and sisters at the VFW Post 1503 in Woodbridge, Virginia, and the many friends and neighbors he cherished at River Run Apartments, where he spent his later years.

Chester will be remembered as a happy, peaceful, and loving soul - someone who gave freely of himself, asked little in return, and left every place better simply by being there.

A memorial service celebrating Chester's life will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 11:00 AM
at Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.; 3200 Golansky Blvd, Woodbridge, 22192.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
3200 Golansky Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-878-CARE (2273)
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>