



Obituary

Born: Friday, April 11, 1947

Died: Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Newport – Michael L. Smith, of Keystone Way died at West Shore Hospital, January 17. He was the proprietor of D.J. Sportwear, Newport, a national and international retailer of Amateur Wrestling products. He was a former faculty member, wrestling coach and athletic director at Newport H S.

Service Summary

Visitation

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Sun Jan 21, 2018

Newport Family Life Center

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Funeral Service

2:00 PM Sun Jan 21, 2018

Newport Family Life Center

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He was a 1965 graduate of Newport High School where he was a member of the 1963-64 undefeated wrestling team. He was a 1969 graduate of the former Bloomsburg State College with a B.S. in secondary education with a major in Contemporary Social Studies and M. A. degree in European History. He took post-graduate studies at the Pennsylvania State University.

He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Newport, a Past Master of Newport Lodge No. 381, F. & A.M., a dual member of Perseverance Lodge No. 21, Harrisburg, a former District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th Masonic District, a member of Newport Royal Arch Chapter No. 238, Harrisburg Council No. 7, Royal and select Masters, Pilgrim Commandery No 11, Knights Templar, Juniata Forest No 88, Harrisburg Forest No 43 and Millersburg Forest 125, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Harrisburg Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Capital Area Scottish Rite Club, a past president and member in perpetuity of the former Carlisle Chapter No 130, National Sojourners and a dual member of Harrisburg Chapter No 76 and a past commander of the York Encampment, Heroes of 1776.

He was a life member and past potentate of Zembo Shrine, Harrisburg where he also served three years as the Recorder. He was a past president of the Perry-Juniata, Upper Dauphin, Past Masters and Past Presidents Shrine Clubs, a member of Cumberland County, Hershey, Adams County, Lebanon County, Lancaster County, York County, Franklin County, Elizabethtown Masonic Village and Zembo Luncheon Shrine Clubs.

He was a past director of the Greeters Unit of Zembo

Shrine and was currently serving as president. He was a member of the Shepherds, Directors, R-V, Legion of Honor and Clown Units. He was the founder and coordinator of the Zembo Shrine Cigar Aficionados. He was an Emeritus member of the Board of Governors of the Shriners Hospitals for Children at Philadelphia where he served as Board Secretary for four years. He was also the chairman of the Patients Recruitment and Greeters and Guides Committees. In 2010 he was elected to the status of Emeritus Representative to the Colorado Corporation of Shriners International. In 2014 – 2015, he served as president of Cabiri International, the International past Potentates Association.

He was a past president of the Newport Lions Club, a member of the Loyal Order of Moose No. 925 Millerstown, PA, B.P.O Elks No 578, Carlisle, Central PA Turkey Buzzards, Roost No 1, Harrisburg where he was the Grand Falcon and a former member of the Tuesday Club, Harrisburg where he served on the House Committee.

He was a pioneer in the Amateur Wrestling World in Central Pennsylvania. He was a former PIAA, Eastern Intercollegiate, AAU and International Wrestling Official. He officiated numerous national and international events including the 1975 Pan American Games at Mexico City and was the official with the National AAU High School All-Star Freestyle Team to Turkey in 1976. He was the Team Leader for the Middle Atlantic AAU, was the Middle Atlantic AAU General Wrestling Chairman since 1977, served as the Middle Atlantic AAU president for two terms, served the National AAU as Junior Olympic, Senior and General Wrestling Chairman and was an AAU Life Member. In 1988 he was the National AAU Wrestling Junior Olympic “Man of Year” and in 1995 was the recipient of the National AAU Wrestling Committee’s sustained Superior Award for the lifetime achievement in the sport of wrestling. He has been inducted into the District III Wrestling Coaches, PA State Wrestling Coaches, West Shore Chapter of the PA Sports, the National AAU Volunteer, the AAU Wrestling and the PA Chapters of the National Wrestling Halls of Fame.

He was founder and president of the Middle Atlantic Wrestling Association which annually attracted between 8000 and 9,000 athletes to its competitions. He served as the tournament director for numerous district, regional and Eastern National Championships tournaments. He annually organized teams from the Middle Atlantic area to compete in the National AAU Scholastic Duals at Disney in Florida and

the National AAU Junior Olympic Games. In 2014 he was named by Wrestling USA Magazine as Pennsylvania's Wrestling "Person of the Year" and was so honored prior to the finals of the PIAA State Championships at the Giant Center in Hershey.

He was a renowned speaker at many Masonic, Civic and Patriotic functions on Historic and Sports related topics. He was an avid Phillies and Penn State football and wrestling fan and was a member of the Nittany Lion Club for many years and a season ticket holder. He was a member of the Perry – Juniata Nittany Lion Club.

He is survived by his wife, the former Doris Jean Rudy, a daughter Tracy Hetrick and two grandchildren Nicholas and Samantha. He was preceded in death by his parents John H. Smith, Sr. and Scivilla, a sister Mildred Curry and a brother John H. Smith, Jr.

Services will be held at the Newport Family Life Center, 27 West Shortcut Road, Newport on Sunday, January 21 with David M. Myers Funeral Home, Newport, handling the arrangements with the Reverend Mary Kay Miller officiating. A viewing will be held on Sunday 12:00 to 2:00 PM with Masonic services at 2:15 P.M. conducted by Newport-Tennis Lodge No 381. Burial will follow in the Newport Cemetery.

Memorial donations can be made to: Zembo Shriners Charity Fund, 2801 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or BU Foundation, 400 E. 2nd St., Nelson Fieldhouse 263, Bloomsburg, PA 17815 {Memo line} "Biggie" Wrestling Scholarship.