

Obituaries

Wendell Dean Smith

1932-2016

Wendell Dean Smith, age 83, of Arnold, Nebraska, returned home to his heavenly father on May 27, 2016. He was buried with his family in Arnold.

Wendell was born November 10, 1932, to Leonard and Winifred Smith in Custer County. He was a gifted performer, radio and TV personality.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and two sisters. He is survived by four sons, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Memorials may be made to the Arnold Community Foundation.

The following poem was read at his service:

The Golden Voice of Wendell Smith

In a world where sports
are king

And physical prowess is
the thing

That gives you worth
and promise of fame

There stood a boy with a
different aim.

Instead of moping about
what he couldn't do

With his stature and
shortened leg too

He turned to music, and
drama, and a different
stage

Others joined his song,

defining success with a
different gauge.

For most who pursue
the success of sports

The glory fades into in-
flated memories of sorts

But for Wendell his gifts
defined his life

DJ, newscaster, musi-
cian, entertainer & the
like.

From state to state and
station to station

He followed his dream
across our nation

Rewards and fame from
Alumni emcee to DJ USA

Receiving his award on
stage at the Grand Ole
Opera.

From singing, to broad-
casting, to preaching a
sermon

We remember his voice
as well as his determina-
tion

Now he has been given
his greatest reward of all

A welcome home son,
the final curtain call.

Like his humble begin-
ning in a country sod
house

Wendell's life ended as
he laid down his cross

He never quit doing
what he was meant to do,

Bring joy and laughter
to those he knew.

*By friends and
neighbors from
Arnold, Nebraska
Pastor Irv Jennings*