

The following was presented by Board Member, Susie Hunt, at the Hall of Distinction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society on May 1, 2022.

Guy M. Smith

November 4, 1921- June 19, 2005

Guy M. Smith was born in Williamson, WV on November 4, 1921 and was reared most of his childhood in Barnsville, Ohio. Upon enlisting in the U.S. Army at the beginning of World War II, Mr. Smith served with the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, 95<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Division in multiple European battles from 1942 to 1946 primarily as a Forward Observer and Reconnaissance Scout participating in the landing on Utah Beach and other Central Europe battles including the Battle of the Bulge. He received the European Theatre Service medal with 5 bronze stars.

Upon discharge from the service Mr. Smith returned to Barnsville to marry the former Donna Colby and would begin a family there. Working for his father-in-law, he moved his family to Dover, Ohio in the early 50s to open the newly constructed bottled gas store. The building is still located today on the northwest corner of West Third and Broad Streets in Dover. After attending courses at Fenn College (now Cleveland State University), Ashland, and Ohio State University, Mr. Smith pursued and obtained his real estate brokers license in 1961. This began a long journey of his love of Dover and surrounding Tuscarawas County. Through his real estate business, and later performing appraisals, he became well known to many for his gentle, friendly personality and especially for his honesty. He also served as an instructor of real estate courses at Dover and New Philadelphia high schools, Kent State University-Tuscarawas Co. branch, and Buckeye Joint Vocational School. Mr. Smith worked seven days a week to provide for his family and to serve his community. He also volunteered at the local YMCA then located on Tuscarawas Ave. in Dover, instructing life guarding and scuba diving classes. In the late 1960s Mr. Smith felt the calling to public service. After a few unsuccessful attempts at county positions and an attempt at Mayor of Dover, he truly felt committed to serving his community. In 1971, Mr. Smith was elected as Mayor of the city of Dover. Beginning his first term in 1972, Mr. Smith was re-elected an additional four times to serve the city for twenty consecutive years.

Some highlights of being in office were taking on a city with finances that were severely over budget. Within a few years he had the city “in the black” and began upgrading city equipment and supplies to better serve its citizens. From his first day in office Mr. Smith maintained an open- door policy where any

citizen could stop in the Mayor's to discuss matters of concern. His love for Dover showed through his seemingly endless commitment to the citizens. Through his leadership, Dover grew steadily and methodically. Projects initiated under his administration included expansion of the city's power plant, city park and renovation of the downtown business area. He was also instrumental in creation of the industrial park which became Progress Street and included new industry such as the then German-firm Inca Pallets and Snyder Manufacturing to name a few. He also petitioned state officials regarding his plan for I-77 access in the north end. Unfortunately this did not happen during his tenure. Additionally he was adamant in keeping the local Army National Guard unit from leaving Dover which resulted in the National Guard building a new and modern structure on North Wooster Ave. The National Guard 1485<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company resides there to this day.

While in office, he also participated heavily with the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce and the Community Improvement Corporation to further grow Dover as not only a great place to live, but to work as well. During his business years he also served as a Boy Scout merit badge counselor for community service. Additionally, he received numerous community, military, professional, and organizational awards for his contributions in these areas. Upon retiring at the beginning of 1992, Mr. Smith still felt the need to connect with his area friends so he worked part-time duties at Warther Museum in Dover as a tour guide and also as a Tuscarawas County Common Pleas Court Bailiff for Judge Roger Lyle. He later began volunteering to deliver mobile meals provided through Union Hospital to shut-ins. On a regular basis he checked on his acquaintances at each delivery stop to ensure they were okay. In early 2005 Mr. Smith was not feeling comfortable driving the meal routes and by April of the same year was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. He succumbed to the disease on June 19<sup>th</sup> of 2005. Mayor Smith was honored by the city of Dover by appropriately naming a new gateway street entering the industrial park as "Guy Smith Way".

#### Memberships:

Member of the Barnsville High School (Belmont Co.Ohio) Class of 1940

Lifelong member of the Methodist Church. (Since arriving in Dover, a member of Dover First United Methodist Church serving on multiple committees

Life member of- Disable American Veterans, Tuscarawas Co. #67

-Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dover Post #3463

The American Legion, Dover Post #205

A fifty year member of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons,  
Friendship Lodge #89

Member of- Tuscarawas Chapter #38 Royal Arch Masons, New Philadelphia

- St. Bernard Commandry #51, Dover, Oh.
- Tuscarawas Council #109, New Philadelphia, Oh

Charter member of the Barnsville Elks Lodge

Life member of the Dover Elks Lodge #975

Distinguished member of the order of Kentucky Colonels

Honorary member of the Dover unit of the Ohio National Guard

Member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Past Commander

Charter member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association- World War II army  
veterans group.

Family information:

Wife: the late Donna C. Smith

Children: Scott Smith and wife, Jennifer

Robert Smith and companion, Shannon Diosi

Kim Antonelli and husband, Robert Antonelli

Jeffery C. Smith and wife, Mary Ann

Mayor Guy Smith was truly a respected and admired individual and it is my  
honor to present him for induction into the Dover Historical Society's Hall of  
Distinction.

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