

CHARLES HORTON SMITH III

Charles H. Smith III of New Orleans, LA died suddenly and unexpectedly, while playing golf on 8 March 2004. He was 68 years old.

He was born in New Orleans, LA, where he lived, except for his naval service, all of his life. "Horty" graduated from Phillips Academy Andover, MA, in 1954, where he was an All American running back. He attended Tulane University prior to entering the Naval Academy. At USNA, he is remembered as being a hard-running fullback and still holds the Academy record for the longest punt from scrimmage—93 yards!

After leaving the Academy, he attended Tulane until he entered flight training in 1956. Receiving his Wings in 1958, Horty reported to his first squadron, HelASRon Three in Norfolk, VA. In 1961, he was ordered to the Pacific Fleet, flying the Douglass AD Skyraider until 1964, when he returned to Tulane, completing his studies in 1967.

In the insurance business for most of his career, Horty was also owned and operator of various businesses that centered around his second love after flying, fishing. He had a tackle shop in New Orleans, LA, for a number of years, as well as a deep-sea charter fishing operation in Destin, FL.

Of his first love, flying, Horty amassed more than 11,000 accident and incident free pilot hours in his career. Most of these were with Petroleum Helicopters (PHI), flying all types of helicopters offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. He retired from PHI in 1993 and continued in the insurance industry until his death.

In his distinguished flying career, he became an ATP and was a lead pilot for PHI.

His interests and activities included the Boston Club of New Orleans, the Navy League, former secretary for the New Orleans Chapter, The Tailhook Association, the Green Wave Club, and the USNA Alumni Association. He was a life member of the Association of Naval Aviators.

His ashes were scattered in several places: some in the Louisiana marsh where he fished and flew over for many years; some in the Pacific Ocean, where he flew in the Navy ADs and had many interesting memories; and finally, some were sprinkled on the last seven holes he didn't finish the day he passed on.

He is survived by two brothers, Michael Proctor Smith '61 and Joseph Byrd Hatchitt Smith.

Shipmate, May 2004