



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT how much you owe your parents? They literally gave you life. Without them, you wouldn't be here. Try as you may, I'm not sure you can ever repay your parents for this valuable gift.

In addition to giving you life, they then formed you into the person you are today. By scolding you when you were bad, praising you when you were good, and using a spanking when you wouldn't listen to reason. Your parents took care of you when you weren't capable of taking care of yourself, and as you grew older allowed you to gradually make your own decisions. Again, I'm not sure a child can ever repay their parents for all the many things they've done and sacrifices they've made.

As your parents grow older, little by little they pass the torch to the new generation created by them. My father was a Township Clerk and I learned a great deal from him. Being a township official was something of which he was very proud. He began in township government in 1961 back in the day when there were "Assistant Township Supervisors" elected. They served on the County Board and he could talk for hours about the "old days." In a unique twist, my Dad became a township clerk shortly after I had served several years as Clerk. He was extremely proud of his township and the role he played in it.

My father was also proud of the fact that he was a Democrat. He was a dedicated Democrat as ever lived in Macon County, supporting his party with his labor and his checkbook. He didn't allow his political leanings to interfere with his job, when someone needed something, he just did it. My father was a people person, he liked meeting and talking to people, and he enjoyed helping them.

This month, *From your Executive Director* is dedicated to my father, R.C. Smith, Township Clerk of Long Creek Township. Born January 28, 1934 died September 2, 2019.

R.C. (Richard Carol) Smith, was born January 28,



R. C. SMITH

1934, the son of Earl Edward and Sylvia Dickson Smith. He lived most of his life as a 6th generation resident of Long Creek Township, Macon County, Illinois. He worked for the Wabash, N&W and Norfolk-Southern Railroads, retiring after 39 years of service. After he left the railroad he was appointed as Executive Director for the Decatur-Area Labor Management Committee and served in that capacity for 8 and one-half years.

R.C. married Wanda Jones on June 13, 1964. He leaves his wife of 55 years: Wanda; son: Bryan E. Smith of Decatur; and daughter: Patty (Jerry) Rodgers of Lakeway, Texas. He also leaves four

grandchildren: Kayleigh Smith, Kelcie Smith, Brett Rodgers and Nicole DeBolt. He also leaves three great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son: Randy E. Smith who died in 2006.

R.C. was a graduate of Mt. Zion High School in 1952 and attended Hannibal-LaGrange College. R.C. was a Korean War Air Force Veteran and served 2 years on Okinawa.

R.C. was very proud and thankful to be named an official "Kentucky Colonel" of the Commonwealth of Kentucky by Kentucky Governor Wallace G. Wilkinson in 1989.

R.C.'s Great Aunt, Dr. Ollie Stackhouse Baird, M.D., served as a Physician in Long Creek and the Decatur area in the early part of the 20th Century. She was the first woman to be inducted in WWI from Macon County in 1917 and went to Camp Rucker, Alabama and then to France and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. R.C.'s Great Grandmother, Americus Stackhouse, came by covered wagon to Long Creek Township in 1861 from Sarcoxie, (Jasper County) Missouri. R.C. was very proud of his family's roots in Long Creek Township.

R.C. served his community in many ways. R.C. was elected as the Assistant Township Supervisor for Long Creek Township in 1961 and then served as a Member of the Macon County Board for a total of 28 years. He was the Chairman of the Macon County Board for one term in 1985-1986 and served 5 terms as Vice Chair-

man. He was elected as Long Creek Township Clerk in 1997 and was currently serving in that position. He enjoyed doing his township duties every day, seeing everyone at the township office and visiting with the people who came by the township office to see him. He also served a partial term as Long Creek Township Assessor in 1989. In 1971 he was elected as Mt. Zion Township Supervisor, the first Democrat to be elected township supervisor there in over 20 years.

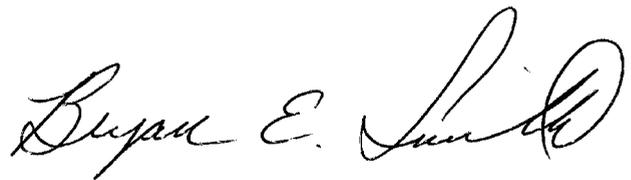
R.C. served as an elected Democratic Precinct Committeeman for over 50 years, first being elected committeeman in 1961. He first started handing out his well-known pocket calendars with his first run for political office in 1961 and has done it every year since. He was an active and faithful member of the Macon County Democratic Central Committee. He served as Chairman of the Long Creek Township Democrats for over 30 years and was still an active committeeman for Long Creek #8.

R.C. was a faithful member of Tabernacle Baptist Church and served as a Deacon for over 40 years. He was named Deacon Emeritus in January 2004. He served as an Adult Men's Sunday school teacher for over 45 years.

R.C. served also as a member of the Macon County #708 Mental Health Board for many years and the Macon County Mosquito Abatement District Board where he served as President of the Board. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Township Officials of Illinois from 2005-2012 and served as a Director and Officer for the Township Clerks of Illinois for several years. R.C. served as a Long Creek Fire Protection District Trustee for several years. He was a member of the N&W Fellowship Club and served as its President for 5 years; member of the Illinois Old Time Fiddlers Association for over 30 years and was honored to serve as M.C. for the Illinois State Fiddle Contest for 5 years. R.C. was a member of the Jefferson-Jackson Club and TOPS Club 610. He was a member and past President

of the Township Officials of Macon County. R.C. was a retiree member of the Wabash Hospital Association Board for 8 years and also served as alternate member for 6 years. R.C. was a 50 year plus member of I.O.O.F. Lodge #300 (Odd Fellows Lodge) Mt. Zion; and Ionic Lodge #312, AF & AM for 57 years. He was extremely honored to be chosen as the Grand Marshal of the Decatur Labor Day Parade in 1997. R.C. was a member of the Korean War Veterans Association (Charles Parlier Chapter) DAV No. 17 Decatur. R.C. was an active member and President of the Long Creek Senior Citizens organization and enjoyed helping set up programs for their lunches. R.C. was a member and local leader of NARVE (National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees). R.C. served on the Decatur-Macon County Economic Development Corporation, The Decatur Advantage, Inc., and as a member of the board of directors for the Decatur-Macon County Senior Citizens Organization.

Services to celebrate R.C.'s life will begin with the family receiving friends for visitation on Thursday evening, September 5, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home, Mt. Zion. A masonic service will be held at 8:00 p.m., Thursday. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 6, 2019, at the funeral home. Burial with military honors provided by the Macon County Honor Guard and the US Air Force Honors Team will be in Point Pleasant Cemetery, Long Creek, IL. Memorials may be made to The Poshard Foundation for Abused Children, 700 Logan College Dr., John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL 62918. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.dawson-wikoff.com.



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