



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Wayne Blasius
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DENARK-SMITH MOURNS LOSS OF ONE OF ITS FOUNDERS

KNOXVILLE, TENN. - Raja Jubran, CEO of Denark-Smith, Inc., announced today that R.M. Smith, an original founding partner of Denark-Smith, Inc. passed away at his Louisville home last night after a battle with cancer for more than a year. R.M. Smith, better known to friends and fellow employees as "Smitty," was 69.

Mr. Smith, Mr. Jubran, and Mr. Maurice Mallia, joined their respective firms' forces to form Denark-Smith, Inc. in 1986. Smitty retired from Denark-Smith, Inc. in 1996 after 35 years in the construction business in East Tennessee. Jubran and Mallia were drawn to Mr. Smith because of his integrity, craftsmanship, and their shared belief in the importance of customer satisfaction. A Blount County native, Smitty spent many years as a homebuilder before expanding into major commercial construction with Denark-Smith. He served as President of the Blount County Homebuilders Association in 1966.

According to Jubran, "Smitty was the kind of man you would be comfortable doing business with on a handshake. From our first conversation, I knew he was a person of great integrity and would be a fine partner and true friend."

Smitty was loved by his friends and co-workers for his sincere concern for others, and for his playful, adventurous spirit. Friends, fellow employees and customers alike, knew he could be counted on.

Smith helped build Denark-Smith from a start up, into a major force in the local construction market. His team philosophy and non-confrontational style were a perfect fit with the firm's advocacy of the design-build process, where owner, architect and contractor work together as a team.

Mr. Smith's family has requested donations to a memorial fund for families of cancer victims be sent, in lieu of flowers, to:

R.M. Smith Memorial Fund
St. John's Baptist Church
306 Bessie Harvey Avenue
Alcoa, TN 37701
982-8021