



***Robert F. Smith '50***  
***(1930-1988)***



Bob Smith was a publisher, political activist, and philanthropist. Born in Pittsburgh in 1930, he moved to Long Island with his family when he was six years of age, and lived most of his life in the Bay Shore-Brightwaters area. After graduating from St. Patrick's School, Bob attended Bay Shore High School, where he played basketball and was captain of the football team and president of the Senior Class of 1950.

From 1951 to 1953, Bob served in the United States Marine Corps, returning to Long Island to work in direct sales. In 1958, he began his 30-year career in publishing, first as salesman and advertising manager of the Pennysaver News of Bay Shore, and from 1970 until his death in 1988, as owner and publisher of the Pennysaver News of Brookhaven, Inc.

Bob's involvement in local, state, and national politics began in 1953 and became a lifelong passion. In 1958, he campaigned for Otis Pike in his run for the United States First Congressional District. Although Pike lost, Bob helped him win in 1960 by setting strategy, getting press attention, and building enthusiasm for his candidacy.

An Islip Town Democratic committeeman for many years, Bob worked on the 1966 Democratic-Conservative victory in Islip Town. He backed Patrick Halpin in the 1983 Suffolk County Executive race, a race Halpin lost by only 20,000 votes, and supported Halpin in his successful 1986 campaign.

Bob's newspaper support and personal financial backing helped Mario Cuomo, an underdog, become Governor of New York in 1982. In addition, he campaigned for three democrats from overwhelmingly Republican districts who were eventually elected to the State Assembly: I.W. Bianchi, Jr., Paul Harenberg, and George Hochbrueckner, who was later elected to Congress.

Bipartisan when it was merited, Bob and his newspaper supported Republicans, too, among them Surrogate Judge Ernest Signorelli, Brookhaven Supervisor Henrietta Acampora, Sheriff John Finnerty, and Brookhaven Town Councilman Joel Lefkowitz.

In 1976, Governor Hugh Carey appointed Bob a commissioner of the Long Island State Park Commission. He also served as chairman of the Suffolk County Chapter of the March of Dimes. Among his many efforts over the years to raise money for the homeless and the hungry, Bob was active in the Pinter Tournament of Stars, which evolved into Long Island Charities.

Bob married Loretta Szeglin in 1955. They are the parents of four children: Timothy, Laura, Mark and Glenn. In 1978, Bob married Beverly Brewster Jones, an old friend from Bay Shore High School. Bob died in February 1988. He was 57.