



Gerard (Gary) V. Smith '57

Gary was the youngest of seven children, born and raised in the heart of Bay Shore. His faith, hard work, determination, humor and his love of sports helped him to achieve great success.

Gary Smith graduated Bay Shore High School in 1957. He was G.O. Class President for the school his senior year and was voted one of the top athletes in his class. He played four years of football, baseball and basketball. His true passion was always basketball. He helped his team capture the Class A, Suffolk County Basketball Championship during the 1956-57 season. That year they were undefeated with a record of 18-0. This added to their 20 consecutive victories overall, which is still a school record today. To finish his senior year, Gary was voted MVP of the basketball team and won the Al Reid Memorial Play Maker Trophy for his stellar skills of understanding the strategy of the game.

At the age of 17, Gary became the first Bay Shore resident to ever win the Great South Bay Cross Bay Swim. A 6.9-mile swim from the Fire Island Lighthouse to Brightwaters' Gilbert Beach. He used the navigational help of his brother Bob (BSHS HOF '03) and relied on his own "never give up" attitude to carry him through. The underdog Smith made it across in rough seas to win the coveted prize, to everyone's surprise.

Upon graduating from Bay Shore, Gary went on to attend Siena College in Loudonville, NY, graduating in 1962 with a BS degree in economics. At Siena Gary played for the Division I Basketball Team. He fit right into the team. He was the leading scorer, rebounder and foul shooter in his sophomore year. During his four years at Siena he garnered accolades such as, Captain of the Team (senior year), Honorable Mention All-American, ECAC ALL East Team and MECAA-All Star Team. After his exceptional basketball playing career at Siena, they honored him by inducting him into their Basketball Hall of Fame in 1980.

After Siena, Gary joined the United States Marine Corps. As a Marine he was selected to the All-Marine Basketball Team. There he and his team won the All-Marine Corps Basketball championship. Gary served as a 1st Lt. and Company Commander in his two tours in Viet Nam. His first Tour was with the USMC and his second was with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the Covert and Special Operations Division. He was in the Elite Marine Unit (3rd Recon BN) when he was wounded in action. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his service and received an Honorable Discharge from the USMC.



During his Tour in Viet Nam as a Marine, Gary was drawn to help the children that were affected by the cruelties of the Viet Nam War. He reached out to friends and family back home in Bay Shore and surrounding communities for help. There was a great outpouring of support. He obtained the desperately needed donations and supplies to help the children of the Orphanage.

Following his military career, he joined the NY State Troopers. During this period he was part of the task force that had to take back and secure Attica State Prison, during the riot. He also worked on Wall Street for Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenearett's trading desk as well as Van Alstyne, Noel & Co, on Mergers and Acquisitions.

In 1972 he joined his brother Bob at Pennysaver News of Brookhaven. He rose to become Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer. He helped run a successful printing and mailing company, circulating to 350,000 homes here on Long Island. The company won top honors every year for design, display and graphics as well as their dedication to public and community service. Gary retired from The Pennysaver in 2000.

Gary served on multiple organizations and charities as well as volunteered within his community. Among them were: The Bishops Appeal committee, Parish council of St. Patrick's Church, Board member of Islip Hospice, Board of Directors of The Family Foundation School, volunteer at St. Mary's Church and St. Patrick's Church Outreach Programs, and volunteer at Christa House, serving the sick and dying. He loved to help those in need and he worked to make a difference in others lives.

Gary and his wife Elizabeth Christie Smith just celebrated their 41st anniversary. They reside in Islip, NY. He was blessed to have five children and three grandchildren. He is happily retired and enjoys being an avid golfer.

