

**IN MEMORIAM**

# Sacrifice was what helped set Smith apart

**EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a two-part feature on Dr. Vergil Smith, whose life was cut short Monday. Funeral services for Smith are at 11 a.m. today in the Marietta school auditorium.**

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When Dr. Vergil Smith passed from this life Monday night, Love County lost one of its modern-day pioneers.

A native of Claremore, Smith served in Korea, worked his way through school and began practicing medicine at the age of 31. He practiced medicine in Tulsa for one year before migrating to Marietta, where he would become an integral part of the community, practicing his beloved profession for 50 years.

Smith's career spanned generations, and he inspired numerous people to join the medical field. His bedside manner was genuine in caring for others.

"He was a close friend and always in a friendly mood," says Dr. Stephen Hutchins, Mercy Hospital Love County chief of staff. "He was committed to his job and he was committed to his patients. They were his patients and his friends."

Brandy Coleman served as Smith's nurse for the past year and a half and says it was not uncommon for Smith to run behind schedule because he took an active interest in each patient he attended.

"He was genuinely loved by his patients," Coleman says. "He was old school. He was going to sit there for an hour with them. He cared for them and he held their hands. He loved his patients and they loved him."

"He was a good teacher, he never made you feel dumb. And if you didn't know something, his door was always open. He was always teaching and he would tell you what he was

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