



Delmar Smith

July 30, 1926 – September 19, 2026

Obituary

There are many people who strived for a life well lived.

But Delmar Smith's 100 years on earth were the pure definition of a life well lived.

On July 30, 1926, "Aunt" Fannie Purcell, a midwife and a neighbor, delivered Delmar in a bedroom of his parents, Richard Lafayette Smith, and Minnie Caroline (Steigleder) Smith's farmhouse near Big Cabin. He passed away on September 19, 2026, in Oklahoma City.

He participated in field trials or conducted seminars in all 50 states and 14 foreign countries. He won the national and U.S. Open Brittany championships five times each before his mid-40s.

Honors he earned along the way include the Field Trial Hall of Fame (1998), the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame (2000), and a permanent place in the National Bird Dog Museum and he was the recipient of the T. Boone Pickens Lifetime Sportsman Award (2016).

Delmar walked in the Kalahari Desert and traveled to South Africa, England, and Scotland. He dined with or visited with the Mellons and Rockefeller's and met the late John Wayne. Delmar was an Oklahoman wherever he was. He was proud, and the 46th state will forever be proud of him.

Delmar did not care if you were a president or a pauper; you got the same bone-rattling handshake and ear to ear grin.

His sayings endure. "The best gift you can give a person is your time," and "Always give the dog the benefit of the doubt."

But it comes down to this one: "I've always wanted to be a dog trainer and a horse trainer. I've gotten to do everything I wanted to do. It's a wonderful thing. I've been very fortunate with all of that."

Delmar wanted to live to 100 years old. He wanted no pain and no long-term care facility. He got it all.

Countless times, Delmar, "King of the Chutes" at the Lazy E Arena, heard his dear friend Clem McSpadden share the words of the Cowboy's Prayer. And while a lot of people might jump to the end of that prayer at the passing of a friend, today Delmar Smith no doubt would have focused on the opening:

"Our gracious heavenly Father, we pause in the midst of this festive occasion, mindful of the many blessings you have bestowed upon us."

Delmar was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Jeanne L. Smith, one son Mark Smith, four brothers Louis, Milton, Norbert, and Ronnie. One grandson Craig Smith.

He is survived by his son Tom Smith and wife Tanna, son Rick Smith, and wife Kaye Davis; Grandchildren Christin Linch and Ty Smith; Great grandchildren Madilyn Linch, Max Linch and Stro Smith.

The family will be holding private services for Delmar, he will be laid to rest in his hometown of Big Cabin, Oklahoma, near most all his family that has gone before him.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to The Bird Dog Foundation 505 Hwy 57W Grand Junction, TN 38039.

Online condolences may be made at www.highsmithfh.com or on the funeral home Facebook page. Arrangements are in the care of the Burckhalter-Highsmith Funeral and Cremation Services of Vinita.