

Joseph Grady Smoot (former president), 85, of Pittsburg, Kansas, died Friday Jan. 5, 2018 at Via Christi Village. He had been a resident since January 2015.

Smoot was born May 7, 1932, in Winter Haven, Florida, to Robert Malcolm Smoot and Vera Eaton Smoot McNutt. He grew up in Tennessee where he graduated from Tullahoma High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts in history and business/economics in 1955 from Southern Adventist University, graduating as president of his class.

Earning a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in history in 1961 from the University of Kentucky, he specialized in 18th-century American studies and presented "Freedom's Early Ring: The Northwest Ordinance and The American Union" for his doctoral dissertation. He was a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honorary society for history.

Smoot served as academic dean at Columbia Union College and dean of graduate studies at Andrews University where he also became vice president for academic affairs and later president. He held the academic rank of professor of history at Andrews from 1968 to 1983. He led Andrews to professional accreditation in several fields of knowledge, created the first strategic master plan, launched the first comprehensive capital campaign, and built numerous buildings. He instituted doctoral programs of study, developed a world system of affiliated higher education, and led the university to full accreditation for the Doctor of Philosophy.

Smoot also organized two new schools in the university in Business and Education, established the Department of Architecture, and relocated the archaeological museum to a separate building and named it for Siegfried Horn. He developed the Andrews University Press as a scholarly publisher and created the Institute for Prevention of Addictions. He was the leading founder of the University of Eastern Africa in Kenya. Widely traveled, he visited some 100 countries on six continents.

Smoot was assistant to the president of Pittsburg State University and vice president emeritus. He organized the PSU Foundation, established the public radio station KRPS, founded the university magazine, and created a substantial endowment fund for university operations. He brought one of America's finest concert organs to the campus and provided funding for numerous building and renovation projects. He also wrote the university's centennial history (1903–2003).

In 1994, he became a director of Gold Bank Pittsburg and served for nine years in that capacity. In 1999, the Pittsburg City Commission appointed him to a four-year term to the Pittsburg Public Library Board of Trustees where he became a founder of the PPL Foundation in 2000 and its president in 2004. The Pittsburg City Commission appointed him to a second four-year term to the Board of Trustees in 2003. In 2001, he became a founder of the Pittsburg Area Community Foundation and served on its board.

Widely published as an historian, he has nearly 700 publications. As an educator, Smoot became a national authority on the accreditation of higher education. He was a member of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, and the Filson



Club Historical Society. He was also a Fellow of the Institute of Early American History and Culture. Smoot was a member of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, the Gilcrease Museum of Art and the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was also a member of the Washington National Cathedral Association. As a historian of 18th century American Studies, he held membership in George Washington's Mount Vernon and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He also maintained membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. He was listed in *Who's Who in America* first in 1974 and *Who's Who in The World* first in 1980.

He is one of the educators featured in a doctoral dissertation presented to the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. See Stephen P. Aldersley, "Moving into Doctoral-Level Education: The Experience of Five Comprehensive Institutions of Higher Education." New York: University of Rochester, 1992.

Survivors include his son, **Andrew Christopher Smoot** (BA '84, MSA '01) of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; brother **Wayne McNutt** (BD '68) of Winter Park, Florida; and four grandchildren. Hannah, Haley, Eric and Heidi Smoot of Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Smoot was preceded in death by his first wife, Florence, in 1957, and second wife, **Irma Jean** (BA '50), on June 18, 1999; grandson Christopher Nash Smoot, one brother, two sisters and one half-brother.

Mary Rant Baker (DIP2YR '52) died on Feb. 2, 2018, in West Bend, Wisconsin. She was 95.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Slovenian immigrants, she loved art and music and for a time worked in a florist shop. After graduating from Emmanuel Missionary College, she married Philo Baker Jr., and for many years used her secretarial degree to help him run Jackson Printing, one of the last firms in Milwaukee to do custom hand type-setting in a commercial environment. She also worked for 39 years as a Sunday receptionist for the West Bend Art Museum, now the Museum of Wisconsin Art.

A highly proficient watercolorist and oil painter, she enjoyed selling her works to local art connoisseurs, donating paintings to the annual PBS fund drive and giving beautiful Christmas, wedding and birthday presents to many family and friends. She also received recognition for her oil painting through the Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Mary is survived by her husband Philo, brother Alexander (Paula) Rant, daughter **Suzanne Kordas** (BA '77), son Robert (Terri-Sue) Baker and grandchildren **Marianne Kordas** (BA '07, current staff), Alex (Lauren) Kordas, Camille Kordas (current student), Benjamin Daniel Baker, **David John Baker** (BA '08).

Jeanne Morris (MA '71), 73, of Stevensville, Michigan, passed away on Dec. 15, 2017, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jeanne Michele O'Brien was born on April 21, 1944 in Orange, New Jersey to George and Florence (Sanzo) O'Brien. She attended Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1962. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree

in education from Columbia Union College, a master's degree in early childhood education from Andrews University, and a Specialist in Education in educational leadership from Western Michigan University.

Jeanne served in the educational field for over 35 years. Over that time she served as a first-grade teacher, a preschool director, a staff development coordinator, and an elementary principal. She was a trailblazing school administrator and served as the assistant superintendent for general education for the Berrien County Intermediate School District (now Berrien RESA) from 1987 until her retirement. Berrien County students have enjoyed programs such as the Berrien County Mathematics & Science Center, the Lest We Forget educational initiative, and Education for Employment thanks to her visionary leadership.

She loved spending time with family and friends, traveling and entertaining, and sailing and boating—and she was particularly well known for her boat docking skills.

She is survived by her husband Tedd Roy Morris, whom she married June 21, 1980; her three children, Erin K. Yingst, of Mattawan, Michigan, Aileen (Ross Nova) Yingst of Brunswick, Maine, and Jeremy Robert (Amanda) Yingst of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; and seven grandchildren.

Richard H. Gutsche (BS '57) died Dec. 1, 2017 in Los Angeles, California.

He was born April 9, 1934, in Hinsdale, Illinois, to Florence Victoria Johnson and Ernst Erich Gutsche in Hinsdale Sanitarium.

While growing up, music was an important part of Richard's life. When he was just 13, Richard played the organ for the Adventist church he and his family attended in Illinois. At

the age of 14, he was asked to be the church organist at the La Grange, Illinois church, where he continued to serve as the organist during his high school and college years.

Richard met the love of his life, Vesta Joyce Wohlers, in 1955 when a mutual friend introduced them. They were married on June 10, 1956.

Before graduating from Emmanuel Missionary College, Richard was hired by the California-based Ace Drill Bushing Company. They had sent a management team to the college to scout out prospective graduates. He served in various management positions with the company for a number of years.

Richard and Joyce welcomed daughter Jill on July 1, 1961 and their son Eric completed the family on Sept. 2, 1966.

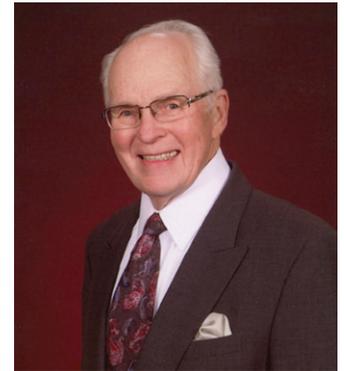
After living in Sunland, California, for over 20 years with Joyce and the children, 20th Century Fox hired Richard as a data processing manager in 1979. He worked there for 20 years before retiring in 1999.

Richard was closely involved in the Adventist churches he attended. He served as organist, worship leader, board member and helped run PowerPoint presentations for many years.

He was also involved in his community, providing his skills of management, finances and leadership wherever he could. One example of this included the many years he and Joyce spent supporting Families Anonymous. Richard held various positions on the board, and served as the editor of "The Twelve Step Rag" newsletter from 2000–2010.

Richard was predeceased by his wife, Joyce, in 2007 and his brother, Roy, in 2012.

Lenard Dale Jaecks (BA '55, MA '61, DMin '76), 85, died June 25, 2017 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with his wife, Lois (Iattoni) by his side.



Lenard was born March 21, 1932 in Wausau, Wisconsin. He attended Bethel Academy and then graduated in Wisconsin Academy's first graduating class in 1950. He received his Bachelor of Arts in 1955 from EMC and master's degree (1961) and Doctor of Ministry (1976) from Andrews University.

Lenard and Lois met at Wisconsin Academy. They were married June 7, 1953. They had two sons, Steven and Ronald. Lenard was ordained as an Adventist minister in 1961.

He taught at Milwaukee Junior Academy from 1955–1957 and pastored many churches in Wisconsin from 1957–1967. Then he pastored churches in California, Illinois and Maryland until 1979. From 1979–1986 he served as executive secretary and ministerial secretary of the Washington Conference. He was president of the Washington Conference from 1986 until his retirement in 1997.

After retirement, Lenard was executive director of Adventist Heritage Ministry and coordinated the restoration of Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Throughout his 45+ years of denominational work he served on many committees in the local conferences and the North American Division.

Lenard is survived by his wife, Lois (Iattoni), sons Steven (Carmen) of Ooltewah, Tennessee and Dr. Ronald (Kellie) of Salem, Oregon, and three grandchildren.

Dick Stenbakken

ISAIAH 64:3 TALKS ABOUT GOD DOING “... awesome things that we did not expect....” (NIV) While that was absolutely true about His intervention and leading of the ancient people of Israel, it certainly has been my own personal experience as well.

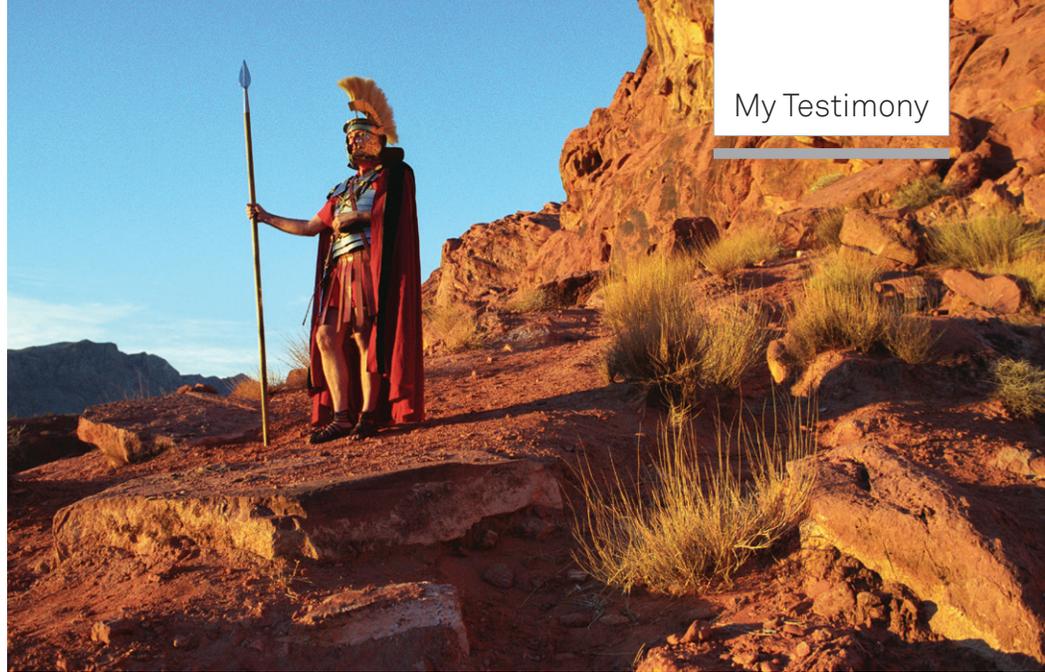
After graduation from Union College, in Lincoln, Nebraska, Ardis and I moved to Andrews University, where I completed an MA in theology and philosophy and an MDiv in New Testament studies. My drive was to be the best prepared I could be for wherever God led.

Following graduation, we took a three-month trip through Europe and the Middle East, thinking, “We better travel now because we will never have a chance to travel again.”

Then we headed for Wyoming to begin pastoral service in a small district. When we arrived, an evangelistic series was ending. A young man, Sammy, who had joined the Army to see beyond the local sagebrush, was on leave before going to Vietnam. Sammy had attended the meetings and renewed his commitment to Christ. I met him briefly while he was waiting for the plane to start him on his journey. We talked about my being his pastor, even at a distance, and he pledged to keep in touch. In our letters back and forth, I offered encouragement and spiritual guidance. He was receptive and grateful. Then the message came to his parents: “We regret to inform you....” I helped with his funeral in the small Wyoming village of Ten Sleep. The experience deeply moved me.

Three years later, Ardis handed me a letter from the General Conference. It was an invitation to consider going on active duty as an Army chaplain. Shock could hardly describe my thoughts. Sammy’s face and experience had never left my memory. God was doing something unexpectedly awesome. After much prayer and putting out “fleece” as did Gideon, we accepted the invitation though told, “If you go on active duty, you will be in Vietnam within a year.” I remembered Sammy. Young adults like that needed ministry, and chaplains go where ministry is needed. We said yes.

From 1969 to 1992 I served on active duty



“Sammy's face and experience had never left my memory. God was doing something unexpectedly awesome.”

as an Army chaplain. The Army career marked a litany of firsts for a Seventh-day Adventist chaplain. Those include: selection for MA in family life, service at the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, earning an academic doctorate, director of two Family Life Centers, Division chaplain, Installation/Command chaplain, being selected and serving as a full colonel, nomination by the Chief of Chaplains as a White House Fellow, and nomination by the Chief of Chaplains to serve as the Cadet Chaplain at West Point.

Another series of firsts began when the General Conference asked me to retire early and take up the position of director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) at the GC. This was the first time anyone in the department would have even served in the military. That assignment was accepted and service ran from 1992 through 2004. During that time, I served as chair for the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) for three consecutive years. As director of ACM and Ardis as director of Women’s Ministries, we each traveled extensively. And, yes, we laugh at our naiveté earlier when we were sure we would never have a chance to travel.

Since “retirement” from the GC in 2004, I have published three books and produced eight DVD sets of first-person biblical and historical characters (samples at www.biblefaces.com). Two of the presentations won awards at the Houston International FilmFest. Half a dozen presentations have

been done for Pentagon prayer breakfasts and another half-dozen for the U.S. Senate Bible study groups. At this point, I have developed, researched, costumed and done over 70 different first-person characters.

In December of 2017, it was a thrill to see a memorial marker commemorating the service of military chaplains in the Pacific Theater placed at the Punchbowl National Military Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was privileged to have designed the monument, secured permission to have it put in place and find funding for the whole process.

Currently, I am part of major training events by the Army Chief of Chaplains all across the Army system. Other speaking presentations include being a keynote presenter at the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplain school and at various camp meetings, local churches and schools. Another book is in the works, “The New Testament Through Roman Eyes.” I have often said, “It’s a good thing I am retired. I wouldn’t have time for a job!”

Indeed, God has done “awesome things we did not expect....” Those ministry opportunities are still unfolding. Andrews University served as a stable and strong launching pad for every step along the path. ■

Richard (Dick) Stenbakken (MA '64, BD '65) is pictured above as the Centurion at the cross. He hand built the armor, crest and leathers he is wearing.