

Earl L. Smith Jr., born in Trenton, was a lifelong resident of West Windsor. After graduating from Princeton High School in 1939, Mr. Smith joined the U.S. Navy Music School in Washington, DC, where he was a drummer for the U. S. Navy Band. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1959 after serving during World War II and the Korean War. He was employed by the U. S. Post Office as a letter carrier for the Princeton Junction branch, retiring after 15 years of service. Happy in retirement but looking for something to do, he couldn't see himself just sitting around and began his 3rd career, first as a volunteer, then as an employee for 24 years at Maurice Hawk School. In his spare time, Earl was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Princeton Junction Volunteer Fire Company. He also joined the bicycle and sidewalks committees and served on the committee that built the West Windsor Township Veterans' Monument. The flagpole at that monument was sponsored by Earl and Maria Smith in memory of their fathers. After his retirement from Maurice Hawk, the mayor of West Windsor declared June 12 as *Mr. Smith Day*. Earl is remembered by each of us in different ways. He was Mr. Smith, "Smitty", the Candy Man, our mailman, or you may have known him simply by his cap, that proudly read the USS Iowa. Earl passed away in August 2010 at the age of 91.

Earl was given special recognition, during the Memorial Day, 2017 ceremony, for his patriotism and sacrifice, and for his commitment to service and citizenship. During the ceremony a star was incised in Earl's memory on the cenotaph of the American Legion Centennial Memorial by his two daughters, Jacqueline Leone and Kathy Lee Smith and members of their family.



