



Samuel D Smalley

November 21, 2024

Samuel David Smalley, 77, of Foley, Alabama, passed away peacefully at home on November 21, 2024. David was born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Alabama by his father and mother, S. O. and Alice Simpson Smalley.

After college, David moved to San Jose, California where he met the love of his life, Dianne Fink, and were married on November 17, 1970. As time passed, they were blessed with 2 children, Melanie Waltrip and Christopher Smalley. Several years later he was blessed with a bonus daughter Melissa Alexander Somsen.

David and Dianne were married for over 53 years and owned a business for 28 years. They spent time traveling together, working together, and raising a family. After moving to Salinas, California in 1977, David joined his father S. O. Smalley in the restaurant business. In 1985, David's father passed and he and Dianne continued to operate the business until they sold it in 2005 to their son-in-law, Jeffrey Waltrip, and daughter Melanie Waltrip.

David spent his life as an entrepreneur who helped others learn the value of hard work and provided work opportunities to those who needed it. He had a great sense of humor, loved an audience, and would make people laugh and smile with his crazy antics.

David is preceded in death by his wife, Dianne Smalley, his father, S. O., mother, Alice Smalley, his brothers, Roy and Robert Smalley, several uncles and aunts, his niece, Denise Smalley.

David is survived by his children, Melanie Waltrip (Jeff), Christopher Smalley, his sister, Charlotte Smalley Hammond (George), his nephew, David Grubbs, his 2 grandchildren, Taylor and Gregory Waltrip, bonus daughter, Melissa Alexander Somsen (Sean), his niece Cindy Collins, and many brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. <https://www.michaeljfox.org/>