

IN REMEMBRANCE



Dr. Vergil Smith's medical career spanned 50 years in Love County. Many of those years were spent working with Dr. J.T. O'Connor (middle) and Connie Barker. SUBMITTED BY BARBARA SESSIONS

Love County loses bright, shining star in Dr. Smith

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a two-part feature on Dr. Vergil Smith, whose life was cut short this week. Funeral services for Smith are 11 a.m. Friday in the Marietta school auditorium.

By Michael Pineda
michael.pineda@ardmoreite.com

Dr. Vergil Smith was a neighbor and friend to all he met. His life and career, which was a bright, shining star in Love County, came to an end Monday night, one day short of his 83rd birthday.

In death, a family lost a loved one, Mercy Health Love County Hospital/Clinic lost a family member and Love County a friend.

Smith, a Korean Conflict veteran, worked his way through medical school and located his practice in Marietta after practicing one year in

Tulsa.

Short of stature, Smith had a huge heart. And he saw his age as an opportunity to expand horizons rather than see them limited.

"He was a funny guy, small in stature, but big in life," says former employee and family friend Sissy Burge. "If he wanted to do something, he did it. He didn't let anything hold him back."

Smith was a pilot, and skydived in celebration of his 80th birthday. He recently attempted to get his hot air balloon pilot license, traveling to New York to do so. Windy conditions prevented it from happening, but the effort was typical of his can-do attitude.

"There was never a dull moment with Dr. Smith," recalls clinic director Connie Barker. "He was very compassionate, and he always cared about

SEE SMITH, PAGE 7