

ARKANSAS INSURANCE  
HALL OF FAME  
— ★ ★ ★ —

CLASS OF 2026 INDUCTEE

# J.B. Smith

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#### COMMUNITY

Marianna, Arkansas

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

Arkansas House, 14 consecutive years

#### AGENCY

Smith Insurance, purchased 1973

#### HONORS

Allen Kennedy Memorial Award

#### — EARLY YEARS

J B Smith was born on February 11, 1934, to very humble beginnings. JB was one of 12 children and learned early on the value of hard work and a positive attitude. JB attended a one-room school in Butlerville, Arkansas until he was old enough to attend Cabot High, where he excelled in basketball. After taking time off school to work, JB was invited to attend Beebe Junior College on a basketball scholarship. This is where JB met the love of his life, Charlotte Fallis Smith. JB and Charlotte married in 1954. JB continued his education at Arkansas State University while also coaching basketball and teaching junior high students in West Memphis. JB was soon drafted into the United States Army and moved to Germany. He was a member of the Transportation Corps, but he found true fulfillment coaching the Battalion Basketball team. Charlotte was able to join JB abroad, and they welcomed their first son, David. After being discharged from service and through a series of fortunate events, JB moved to Marianna. The family quickly welcomed their second son, Mark, and purchased an Esso service station.

#### — A CAREER IN INSURANCE

After operating a few successful business ventures in Marianna, JB purchased Mixon-Moore Insurance in 1973. Not only had JB never worked in the insurance industry, but as JB often jokes, he also could not spell the word “insurance” when he purchased the agency. Three seasoned professionals stayed on after he purchased the agency, and with their guidance and JB’s work ethic, the newly minted Smith Insurance thrived. JB purchased two additional agencies soon after.

Throughout his decades in the insurance industry, JB enjoyed the many benefits of being a member of the Big “I” of Arkansas. JB held many leadership positions, including President and State National Director, and was awarded the prestigious Allen Kennedy Memorial Award.

#### — PUBLIC SERVICE

While still running Smith Insurance, JB was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1967. As with the insurance industry, JB had never held political office. But with hard work and determination, he proudly served his constituents for

14 consecutive years. While JB stepped down to devote more time to growing Smith Insurance, his retirement from politics did not last. Governor Frank White quickly hired JB to oversee his legislative affairs. After that appointment ended, JB worked as a lobbyist for Arkansas Power and Light (Entergy) and for the Independent Agents of Arkansas until 2000.

#### — COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

JB's endeavors across the state never took his focus fully from Marianna. JB has been involved in countless organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club. JB thoroughly enjoyed coaching football, baseball, and basketball for various local teams and served on the First National Bank of Marianna Board of Directors for many years. JB remains an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Marianna. He has served in many leadership positions and to this day still sits in

the same seat in the same row every Sunday. JB also remains passionate about the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He never hesitated to take time off work to share this love and passion with his two sons and seven grandchildren. JB's true love has always been for his family, especially his wife Charlotte, whom he was married to for over 60 years. His care of Charlotte during her final years is a true testament to JB's selfless character.

#### — BLESSED IN EVERY ASPECT

Because of Smith Insurance, JB formed strong relationships with people from every corner of Marianna, Lee County and the State of Arkansas. He found true joy in helping people and businesses with their insurance needs. JB has been blessed in every aspect of his life, and the people of the insurance industry are certainly a big reason why.

