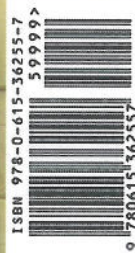
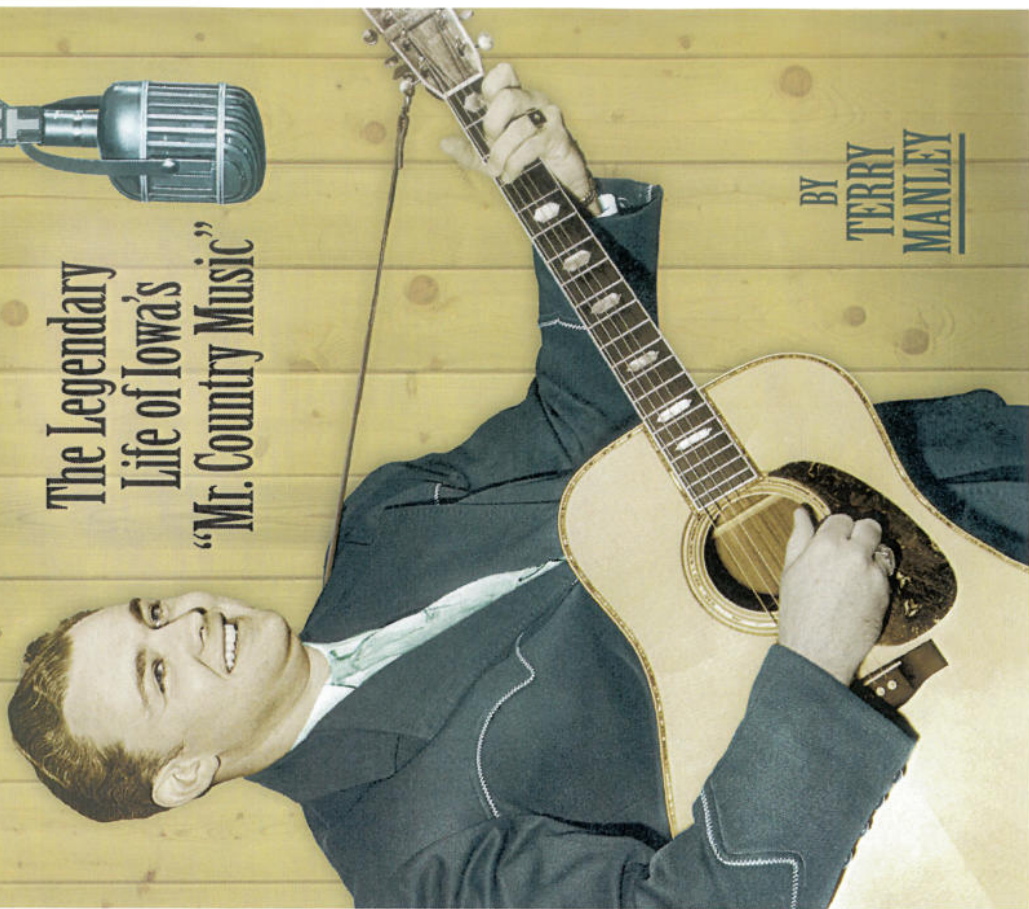


SMOKEY SMITH PRESENTS

# SMOKEY

The Legendary  
Life of Iowa's  
"Mr. Country Music"

BY  
TERRY  
MANLEY



The plaque commemorating the induction of Smokey Smith into the Country Music Disc Jockey Hall of Fame is displayed with other honorees at the Downtown Convention Center, across from Nashville's Ryman Auditorium.



THE CLOCK ON THE WALL  
REMINDS ME OFTEN  
THAT TIME  
WAITS FOR NO ONE.

- LAURIE JOULIE



# “SMOKEY” SMITH

February 12, 1922 - February 3, 2014

## FUNERAL SERVICE

2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 9, 2014  
Westover Funeral Home

## OFFICIATING

Pastor Paul Porter  
Van Meter Baptist Church

## MUSICAL SELECTIONS

“Go Rest High On That Mountain”  
“Farside Banks Of Jordon”  
“Too Many Heartaches”

## PALLBEARERS

Brian Ahrenkiel	Christopher Power	Mark Shaffer
Andrew Ahrenkiel	Layne Wardenburg	Robbie Wittkowski
	Carl Baker	

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Maurie Goode	Dennis Best	Marty Martell
Les Leverett	San Lindroth	Leroy Van Dyke
Tom Perryman	Rick Hadden	Richard Davis
Len Ellis	Tim Holm	Bill Anderson
Lyle Newman	Lou Robin	Bobby Bare
DeVere Adamson	Sonny James	Little Jimmy Dickens

## PRIVATE INTERMENT

Masonic Cemetery  
Des Moines, Iowa



The country music industry lost a legendary member when D. C. "Smokey" Smith passed away at home on Monday, February 3, 2014, due to complications following two surgeries for a traumatic brain injury. The former local radio and television personality, entertainer, recording artist, promoter and owner of Smokey Smith Tours would have been 92 on February 12.

He was born on February 12, 1922, in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Lawrence, Kansas. It was there he learned at an early age that singing and playing guitar created the perfect tempo for his life.

Smokey's career began in California, which spanned most of the 1940's as a recording artist and ballroom singer. It was there his reputation for constantly puffing on his favorite cigars earned him the lifelong and much preferred identity of "Smokey."

He later migrated to Des Moines in 1950, becoming a popular entertainer and broadcast personality on KRNT Radio. When KRNT-TV (now KCCI) began airing in 1955, he had the area's first live primetime country music television show. He later worked for local radio stations KWDM, KWKY and KNIA in Knoxville.

Smokey also promoted country music shows at KRNT Theater for 24 years. The early success of those events led him to include six other Iowa cities on his tours before expanding into six other states as well. This distinction earned him membership into an elite group of promoters known as "package show specialists" that controlled vast territory in their respective regions.

It wasn't an easy task handling every last detail of every event, some bordering on catastrophic, from an occasional headline artist who didn't show up to inclement weather which often did. Yet, adversity could never stifle that hair-trigger laugh so instantly recognizable even in a crowded room.

His tenacity proved to be the collateral earning him recognition as one of the premier promoters in the country. This wasn't the only reason he also became an icon in Nashville's entertainment community. Hiring every name act of the era would have probably qualified in itself, however, he also provided significant leadership in 1953 during creation of the Country Music Disc Jockeys Association.

By 1958 Smokey was serving as treasurer of the group and again displayed



foresight in supporting a drive encouraging the membership to disband in favor of creating a much broader coalition known as the Country Music Association. He became one of the very first board members of the organization now recognized worldwide.

Smokey was a 33rd degree Freemason for 61 years, a 60-year member of the Knights Templar and the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine. A sampling of his many awards includes the Johnny Cash Award of Merit; induction into both Nashville's Country Music Disc Jockey Hall of Fame and the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; the International Media Award presented by the Reunion of Professional Entertainers (ROPE) in Nashville and many other Iowa and regional awards..

The State Historical Society of Iowa honored him in 2011 by recognizing his many achievements with a special exhibit of personal memorabilia entitled "Smokey Smith: Iowa's Mr. Country Music." It was the first time the organization chose to honor an Iowa personality from the country music industry.

Smokey was always humbled by the special attention he received, even to the point of questioning whether he deserved it at times. To him, the crowning achievement in life was his family, especially the granddaughters and great grandchildren that simply knew him as "Papa."

His huge success in life was only eclipsed by a gregarious persona best described by entertainer Wanda Jackson, who lovingly saw him as "kind of a Santa Claus figure with a cigar." He had that that type of personality, too, she said, "always jovial and laughing all the time, just a happy guy."

Smokey was preceded in death by his mother, Vanera; wife Lucille and their son, Leon. He is survived by his daughter, Carol (Terry) Manley, of West Des Moines; granddaughters Diane (Brian) Ahrenkiel of Waukec; Christi (Christopher) Power of Van Meter and Mindy (Layne) Wardenburg of Clive; great-granddaughters Carolyn and Caylee Power; great-grandson Andrew Mason Ahrenkiel; sisters-in-law Estelline Jones of Marshfield, Missouri; Ophie Anderson of Burleson, Texas; Janell Shackelford of Austin, Texas, nieces, nephews and many dear friends..

The family acknowledges special appreciation to HCI Care Services of Central Iowa for its compassionate understanding and steadfast commitment to provide Smokey with excellent health care.

Memorial contributions in Smokey's honor may be directed to the Shriners Hospitals for Children ([www.shrinershq.org](http://www.shrinershq.org)).