

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that former Executive Secretary/President of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, COL Gerald J. Smith (USAF, Ret), passed away on September 8, 2016, after a long illness. Gerry was the guiding force of the Foundation when it began operations on September 25, 1988 until his retirement in 2011.

Gerry was a 1958 graduate of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, with a B.A. in Accounting. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Following graduation from pilot training, he served as a fighter pilot and in various operational, staff and command positions during his career. He served in the Vietnam War and his decorations included the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, eight Air medals and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Gerry also earned an MBA from Auburn University, as well as graduating from the US Army Command and General Staff College and the USAF Air War College.

He retired after twenty-five years of military service as a Colonel and joined the staff of Senator Barry Goldwater as his Special Assistant until my father's retirement. He was Dad's trusted friend and confidante and led the Foundation with the same dedication and acumen.

Gerry is survived by his beloved wife, his son and daughter-in-law, and one grandson. Funeral arrangements at Arlington National Cemetery are pending. Notes of condolence may be sent c/o the Barry Goldwater Scholarship Foundation at 6225 Brandon Ave, Ste 315, Springfield, VA, 22150-2519.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Goldwater Clay". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Chair, Board of Trustees
Barry Goldwater Scholarship Foundation