

# Buford Smith

## Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award

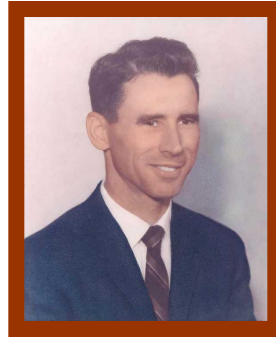


**"The Life of a Happy Man"  
(A poem from the desk of Buford Smith)**

***To awaken each morning with a smile  
brightening my face, to greet the day with  
reverence, for the opportunities it contains;  
to approach my work with a clean mind; to  
hold ever before me, even in the doing of little  
things, the Ultimate Purpose toward which I  
am working; to meet men and women with  
laughter on my lips and love in my heart, to  
be gentle, kind and courteous through all the  
hours; to approach the night with weariness  
that ever woos sleep and the joy that comes  
from work well done -- this is how I desire to  
waste wisely my days.***

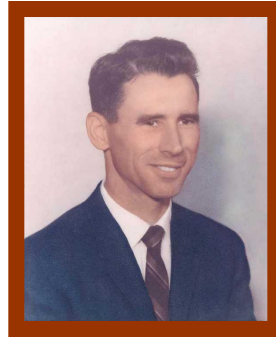
**--- Author Unknown**

# Buford Smith – Excellence in Traffic Engineering Award



Buford Smith served the NCDOT as a Division Traffic Engineer. He was an outstanding employee, a well-respected engineer, a good friend, and a very fine person. On April 10, 1982, Buford Smith and his wife were killed in a tragic head-on collision on NC 24 in Stanly County. To preserve the memory of this special man, each year an employee from traffic engineering or traffic services is recognized for their significant achievements and leadership qualities that parallel Buford's attributes. The tradition of recognizing an employee that exemplifies Buford's professional contributions and service, and the selection of the award recipient by his/her peers from Traffic Services and Traffic Engineering has been faithfully carried out since 1983.

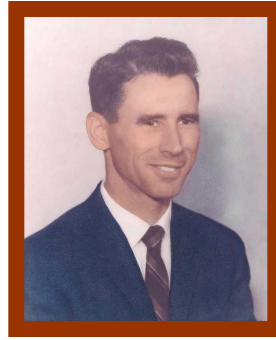
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"Buford was the best practical Traffic Engineer that I ever knew, and it was a pleasure to work with him. As a man he had the character to never point a finger at others or blame others for failures. Whenever something did not go as planned, he was first to step forward to accept or share the blame. When doing so, he would always state that if someone needed to be the "Goat" then he would be the Goat. And when we made a mistake ("rare" as that was--and the mistake was usually mine), he was quick to say, "Even an Eskimo slips on ice sometimes." The years we spent together were a special experience for me. Buford was a teacher of Traffic Engineering, but more importantly to me he was a teacher of life. He still is sorely missed."

*--Landis Satterwhite Former NCDOT District Engineer and Area Traffic Engineer*

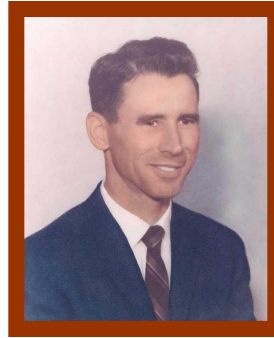
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"I worked closely with Buford in the era when DOT was building Interstate 77 through the downtown Charlotte area and when handling large traffic flows through our construction projects was not as preconceived and designed as we currently do. Buford was always willing to be involved to help solve problems on short notice, at any time of the day or night, and we and his staff spent many hours planning how to get projects built while still protecting the traveling public's interests. Buford would never lose his composure in tense discussions and was always a calming and reassuring influence on all involved. He was the epitome of a true professional and was a gentleman at all times. He served as a role model to many younger engineers by demonstrating how competing interests could be married together for the common good if all would approach the issue in a calm and professional manner."

*--Berry Jenkins, North Carolina Director, Highway-Heavy Division, Carolina's Association of General Contractors and Former NCDOT Director-Preconstruction*

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## **Key Qualities**

**Leadership** – Leads by example; Skillful in directing others to common goal; Builds trust and unity

**Safety Champion** – Emulates Safety in Everyday Work

**Innovation** – Creative Approach; Applying new technologies

**Development of Employees** – Provides persistent reinforcement and feedback on job performance to develop and motivate employees

**Technical Knowledge** – Recognized authority in field of work; Exhibits interest in continuing education and learning

**Professionalism** – Considers impact on DOT before making decisions; Excellent ethics and morals; Lives by the "Golden Rule"