

SULLIVAN — Robert J. ‘Bob’ Smith, 96, of Sullivan, formerly of Charleston, died 10:12 a.m. Tuesday (September 4, 2012) in Mason Point, Sullivan.

Celebration of Life services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday in the Mason Point Chapel, Sullivan with John Plummer officiating. Visitation will be in the chapel one hour before services. Burial will be in the Roselawn Cemetery, Charleston, with military rites conducted by the Sullivan American Legion Post # 68. Memorials are suggested to the Mason Point Activity Fund or to the Wesley United Methodist Church, Charleston. Arrangements by the Reed Funeral Home, Sullivan. Condolences may be sent to the family at reedfuneralhome.net.

Robert was born July 23, 1916, in Blodgett, Missouri, the son of Harley L. and Ruth Sherer Smith. After receiving his bachelor’s degree at Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, he taught high school science at Elvins, Missouri, and at Cape Girardeau. During summers, he worked towards a Master’s degree at the University of Iowa. He then served as a weatherman for the US Army/ Air Corp during WWII. After the war, he taught chemistry at Southeast Missouri State for two years. He then studied at the University of Iowa and received his Ph. D. He was then a professor of chemistry at Southeast Missouri State for five years and at Eastern Illinois University for 29 years. He was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church, Charleston and the American Chemical Society. He married Reva F. McCann on May 30, 1948, in Canalou, Missouri, and she survives at Sullivan.

Also surviving are his children; Ellen (Tony) Feeler of Sullivan, Steven Smith of Kirksville, Missouri, Laura (Alan) Abbott of Kewanee, Illinois; sister, Louretta Peters of Columbia, Missouri; grandchildren, Rob (Melissa) Feeler of Centennial, Colorado, Emily (John) Barry of Las Vegas, Nevada, Jeanie Abbott of Champaign, Illinois, Mary Abbott of Kewanee, Illinois; great grandson, Jaxon Feeler at home and a nephew, Walter (Stacy) Peters of Columbia, Missouri.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bob was a kind, compassionate man who touched many lives through teaching and contributing to many charities. He also participated in church and community activities. He was devoted to his family and especially loved being around his grandchildren. He was a quiet, modest man who set an excellent example for his children.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Mason Point for the excellent care given to their father.