(*continued from inside . . .*) From 1973 to the mid-90's, Kennedy worked tirelessly as a leader in forming the Presbyterian Church of America, a denomination committed to the inerrancy of Scripture and the pursuit of the Great Commission through evangelism and missions. Those imperatives, along with a Gospel call to "care for the least of these," reflected the values demonstrated in his own life. He served the PCA in multiple roles, crisscrossing the country as Coordinator of Church Relations for Mission to the World and Coordinator of Evangelism at Mission to North America. In 1998, he was elected Moderator of the 26th General Assembly of the PCA.

Kennedy returned to his ministry roots in later years, serving as an assistant pastor and chaplain at Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church and at nearby Eagle Ranch in Chestnut Mountain, Georgia. He led CMPC in donating more blood than any congregation in the world. But his greatest role was out of the spotlight, caring for Mary, who died in 2014 at age 89. Even as his own health declined in recent years, Kennedy embodied the grace of Jesus to those who cared for him at Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett and the children who loved visiting him there. We are so grateful to have had him for so long.

Kennedy is preceded in death by his parents, John Edmondson Smartt and Mary Read Smartt; brothers John E. Smartt, Jr. and Samuel Read Smartt; sisters Elizabeth Sims Smartt and Mary Eleanor Smartt Gilley; and wife Mary Van Voorhis Smartt. He is survived by sons Matthew Kennedy Smartt and Daniel Arnold Smartt; daughters Ellen Smartt Manning and Betty Smartt Carter; grandchildren Joanna Briggs, Maggie Manning, Emma Harper, Jackson Manning, Kensey Smartt, Tomas Kofroth, Carlos Kofroth, and Martin Kofroth; and great-grandchildren Ruth Briggs, Nika Briggs, and Henry Manning.

The family requests that memorial gifts be directed to the planned

KENNEDY SMARTT CENTER FOR MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

at Covenant Theological Seminary

covenantseminary.edu/give-now

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Kennedy Smartt



NOVEMBER 7, 1924 – OCTOBER 15, 2026

CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11.07.26

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE	Susan MacLagan
INVOCATION	Pastor Steven Clark *Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church*
HYMN	*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*
SCRIPTURE READING	Betty Carter *Daughter*
REMARKS	Joe Novenson *PCA Teaching Elder, Honorably Retired*
FAMILY REMARKS	Matt Smartt *Son*
HYMN	*I Stand Amazed (My Savior's Love)*
MESSAGE	Pastor John Batusic *Pastor Emeritus, Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church*
HYMN	*For All the Saints*
CLOSING PRAYER	Pastor Steven Clark
POSTLUDE	Susan MacLagan

Immediately following the service, you're invited to join the family at the graveside for a brief reflection and flag presentation.

Kennedy Smartt passed peacefully from this life early on October 15, three weeks shy of his 102nd birthday. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Kennedy poured out his long life in service to Jesus Christ. He shared the Gospel with words as a pastor and chaplain, but also by example as a man who welcomed everyone he met with the love of Jesus.

His story began on Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, which he referred to in later life as "the Holy Land." Kennedy's parents were expecting a fifth child when their four-year-old daughter died in a tragic fall from the east brow. Grief moved them to recommit their lives to God and pray that their unborn child would go into ministry. According to Kennedy—who arrived in the world three weeks later—he didn't learn about this prayer until after he felt God's call for himself. He enjoyed a free-roaming childhood on the mountain and was especially close to his older sister Eleanor, a partner and foe in many pranks.

After graduating from Chattanooga High School in 1943, Kennedy entered the army and deployed to Europe, just in time for the Battle of the Bulge. One night, shivering under the threat of an air raid, he explained the Gospel to his foxhole buddy, Jay. The next day, Jay declared "Smartt saved me!" This announcement didn't make Kennedy too popular in the unit, but he'd had a first and meaningful experience of leading someone to faith.

Kennedy was wounded in ambush in 1945 and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He attended Davidson College after the war, followed by Westminster Theological Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary. While working at Camp Peniel in Upstate New York, he met a young teacher named Mary Van Voorhis. Within days, Kennedy felt God telling him to make her his wife. They married on August 16, 1952, and enjoyed 62 years together.

The Smartts served at Ingleside Presbyterian in Scottdale, Georgia; at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School in Rabun Gap, Georgia; and at West End Presbyterian in Hopewell, Virginia. In those churches and communities, people saw Kennedy as a "pastor's pastor," a shepherd who visited hospitals and jails, befriended rich and poor alike, and spoke about everyone's need for a Savior. Mary was fully part of his ministry, counseling and showing hospitality while raising their four children. (. . . *continued on back*)