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UA11/2 Western Welcomes Dewey Smith

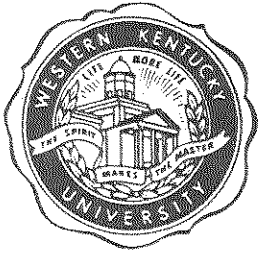
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News from Western

WESTERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WESTERNERS GREET LOUISVILLE EX-POW, COL. DEWEY E. SMITH

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Air Force Col. Dewey E. Smith, the second ex-Prisoner of War from Louisville, Ky. returned to his native city Saturday. He was greeted by crowds of well-wishers, public officials and a group of faculty, staff, and students from Western Kentucky University, Smith's alma mater.

Smith, his wife, Norma, and two children arrived at Louisville's Standiford Field Saturday afternoon. A motorcade took them immediately to Fairdale High School where ceremonies awaited the former Fairdale graduate.

"It's fantastic! I've been gone a long time, but this makes every bit of it worth it," the former POW who was captured on March 4, 1967, told newsmen and officials upon his arrival at the airport.

Among the first dignitaries at the plane to greet Smith was Western President Dero G. Downing, who later told the Colonel at Fairdale ceremonies "every note played by the Western Band had with it the love and affection of Westerners everywhere."

President Downing presented the four-year letterman in football at Western with a recording of a tribute to the late Coach E. A. Diddle, whom, Downing quoted, once said to his basketball team: "You don't just represent yourself, you represent the whole University."

Also present to greet Smith was Western Head Football Coach Jimmy Feix. "Jimmy, I can hardly believe it," Smith told Feix, who gave him a Western red towel for the football team.

Lt. Governor Julian Carroll told Smith that "on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, for three million, two hundred thousand people, we are grateful that you are home safely."

Smith, flanked by his family, told the welcoming crowds: "You and all of the people in the United States like you have meant so much to all of us. You can't imagine how wonderful it is to live in a city like this until you've been somewhere where you think you'll never see it again."

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TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 502) 745-4295



News from Western Western KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER PRISONER DEWEY LEE SMITH HERE ON THURSDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- A public program, "Western Welcomes Dewey Smith," will be held at Western Kentucky University at 2 p. m. (CST) Thursday to honor former prisoner of war Lt. Col. Dewey Lee Smith.

The welcome will be held in the theater of the Dero Downing University Center. Officials of the University, of which Smith is a 1953 graduate, said that the public is invited to attend the program.

Presiding will be Western's president, Dr. Dero G. Downing, who will open the program. Then, in succession, will follow the comments of Miss Frances Richards, retired former teacher of Smith, and Dr. Robert E. Simpson, Smith's college roommate and a member of the Western football squad during the same years.

Bob Proctor, president of the Western Alumni Association, will bring greetings, and Edward Jordan, president of the Associated Student Government of the University will represent the current student body. Von Harshman, who heads the student veterans on campus, also will greet the former POW.

Smith is expected to follow these greetings with his own remarks and the program will be concluded by Dr. Downing.

Alumni/POW

--more--
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 502) 745-4295

Office of Public Relations

Bowling Green, Ky. 40401

Visitors to the campus are asked to park in the lot near the Diddle Arena and to use the Parking Structure on the corner of Dogwood Drive and Russellville Road.