

Paul Reed Smith - musician, guitar builder, innovator, devoted husband and father was born in Bethesda and raised in Bowie, Maryland. Smith made his first playable guitar for extra credit while at St. Mary's College. From that fledgling effort, he has grown his passion for guitar building as the Founder and Managing General Partner of Paul Reed Smith Guitars, which today makes its home in Stevensville, Maryland.

Since 1985, when it first opened its doors in a tiny attic shop in Annapolis, PRS Guitars has become recognized internationally as one of three top American electric guitar builders. The company has earned numerous awards over the years, including International Press awards for "Product of the Year", trade industry magazine "Player's Choice", "Editor's Pick" and "Music Company of the Year" awards, "National Gold Ink" awards for their product catalog, and MOSHA's "Partnership through Consultation" award. The list of artists playing their guitars reads like a who's-who of renowned contemporary musicians. PRS Guitars takes great pride in its contributions to job growth and stimulating commerce on the Eastern Shore. The company also has a long history of philanthropy; supporting many worthy causes within the community and beyond.

Mr. Smith's personal achievements include the Maryland Small Business "Person of the Year" Award, a resolution on the floor of the Maryland House of Delegates for his contributions to the state, and being twice named a finalist for Ernst & Young's "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award. Aside from his personal and business achievements, the man many call a "modern-day Stradivari" is an accomplished songwriter and guitarist who continues to perform and record with the Paul Reed Smith Band and such notable artists as Carlos Santana, Mark Tremonti, Chuck Brown and a host of others.