



Robert (Bob) Harry Smith

October 5, 1940 - April 3, 2024

Robert (Bob) Harry Smith, 83, passed away on April 3, 2024. He was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, on October 5, 1940, to John L. Smith and Marguerite (Short) Smith.

Bob was a big man who lived a big life. He played tight end for Michigan and the Baltimore Colts before the start of what is now the NFL. He served in the Navy as a medic on two aircraft carriers: the Lexington and the Antetum. He worked in Human Resources for his own firm as well as in the industry and ultimately brought a case before the Supreme Court which led to the FMLA. He had a big heart and loved big as well. He devoted himself to caring for his family and friends and was always willing to help them with home improvement projects. He was wholeheartedly devoted to Ellie, his wife of 45 years, and supported not only her endeavors but cared for her throughout her battles with breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Bob also had a big smile: He always had an ornery sense of humor - both quick-witted and quick with a practical joke. He was an excellent fisherman, an avid reader and worker of crossword puzzles, and a wonderful woodworker and restorer of antique furniture. Bob was also a man of great determination; once he decided to stop drinking, he never took another drink again for almost 40 years. He was a Wolverine to his core.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Eleanor Smith; son, John Smith; sister, Marilyn Ghekiere; stepdaughter, Donna Douglas; and brother-in-law, Robert Lester.

He is survived by his son, Matthew Smith (Shannon) of Florida, and Michael Smith (Susan) of North Carolina; stepdaughters, Lisa Castor (Delayne) of Missouri, and Julie Lewis of Michigan; sisters, Jacquelyn Lester of Michigan, Mary Rose (Gerald) of Michigan, and JoAnne Rhoades (Robert) of Michigan; brother, John P. Smith (Diana) of Michigan; son-in-law, Rocky Howe (Valarie) of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; brother-in-law, Francis Ghekiere of Michigan; seven grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend whose memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

A brief visitation with the family will be held before the service at 9:30 a.m., on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Sager Creek Community Church in Siloam Springs, AR. A memorial service, officiated by Kyle Weir, will follow at 10 a.m. The burial will follow the memorial service at Oak Hill Cemetery.

For those who attend the service, please wear navy blue or maze yellow in honor of his love for all things Michigan. In place of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to Alcoholics Anonymous or Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Sager Creek Community Church
1600 Cheri Whitlock Dr.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Memorial Service

APR 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sager Creek Community Church
1600 Cheri Whitlock Dr.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Burial

APR 13 (CT)

Oak Hill Cemetery
2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Tribute Wall



“ *Wasson Funeral Home Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith*



Wasson Funeral Home - April 09, 2024 at 03:15 PM

CA

“ *Bob always had a friendly greeting and smile for everyone. He had a wonderful sense of humor and eagerly participated in funny pranks. I was in awe of his respect and love for his wife Ellie.* ❤️



Cheryl Anderson - April 12, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ *Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith.*



April 11, 2024 at 03:30 PM

JF

“ John smith and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith.

John smith and family - April 11, 2024 at 02:19 PM

JF

“ John smith and family purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith.



John smith and family - April 11, 2024 at 02:19 PM

CM

“ Cross Church Missions purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith.



Cross Church Missions - April 10, 2024 at 08:34 PM

FF

“ Friant/Mitchell family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith.

Friant/Mitchell family - April 10, 2024 at 05:53 PM

FF

“ Friant/Mitchell family purchased the Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith.



Friant/Mitchell family - April 10, 2024 at 05:53 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julie Lewis - April 09, 2024 at 09:49 PM



“ Yellow & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Robert (Bob) Harry Smith.



April 09, 2024 at 09:05 PM

MS

“ Love you Dad so much!

Mike Smith - April 09, 2024 at 07:54 PM

JL

“ Bob, my stepdad did have the best sense of humor. On one occasion, while traveling on business, he said he used me during a traffic stop. He told the officer his daughter was going to kill him. The officer asked why, & Bob told him I was a deputy at that time. The officer let him go. However, on Bob's way home he was stopped again by the same officer. He received his ticket then. I will forever miss my dad & mom, & they will forever be in my heart, as well as my children Amanda & Shea. To them, he will always be their grandpa.

Julie Lewis - April 09, 2024 at 03:37 PM