



Donald J. Smarker

March 27, 1939 - January 28, 2022

Donald J. Smarker, 82, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on Friday, January 28, 2022. He was born March 27, 1939, in Kansas City, Kansas, the son of Frank and Anna Wolters Smarker. Don was raised in Kansas City, Kansas, and attended Blessed Sacrament Elementary School and Wyandotte High School. At the age of 17, Don joined the United States Marine Corps in March 1956 through 1959. Don was employed at Proctor and Gamble for 35 years, retired in 1996. He married Betty Blankenship on December 31st, 1999.

Don retired early because he "didn't think he would live long enough to do everything he wanted to do."

Most mornings you could find Don with a cup of coffee, a peanut butter cookie and a grandchild or great-grandchild in tow. He enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, Europe and his favorite location, Puerto Vallarta. He also enjoyed playing cards and working in the garden. Don loved restoring vintage cars and was an active member of the Hupmobile Club. He could repair anything, and was always tinkering with projects in his garage.

Don was creative and kind, always active and generous to the causes he supported. He was a founding member of Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 534, and a member of the NRA and the American Antique Car Association.

In 2019, Don and his son, Brian, traveled to Germany to explore their ancestry. They met and enjoyed the company of their Herman cousins as they toured the countryside. He will be missed by so many.

Don is survived by his wife, Betty Blankenship-Smarker; children, Don Smarker (Lana), Brian Smarker (Scarlet), Sheila Scarborough, Kristy Moreno, Shonna Walker, Brad Blankenship (Becky Harrod), and Annette Blankenship Martin; ten grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Richard and Albert Smarker. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, Francis Smarker, Jr., and Charles Smarker.

Rosary will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 2nd, at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th Street, Topeka KS 66618, where visitation will follow until 7:30 p.m. Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 3rd, at the Church. The United States Marine Corps will provide military honors following Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Rosary

FEB 2. 5:30 PM (CT)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church
2014 NW 46th Street
Topeka, KS 66618

Visitation

FEB 2. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church
2014 NW 46th Street
Topeka, KS 66618

Mass of Resurrection

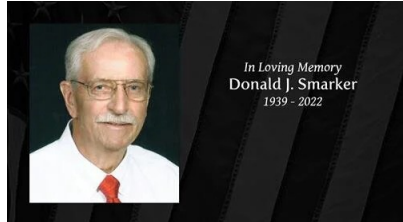
FEB 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church
2014 NW 46th Street
Topeka, KS 66618

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald J. Smarker



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 02, 2022 at 03:38 PM



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Donald J. Smarker



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - January 30, 2022 at 02:41 PM



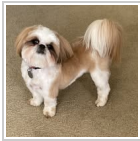
“ Donald J. Smarker

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Betty, I was so saddened to learn of Don's passing. Although I never met him I've known you for most of my life and and now offer my prayers for your and your entire family.
Wayne Bennett. Take care

Wayne Bennett, New Braunfels, TX - February 03, 2022 at 02:45 PM



“ So sorry for Don's passing. He was a friend from our antique car clubs together. Don was a very talented man who did very good restorations. He was always ready to give advice or to show how to improve a restoration. He will be missed.

Tom Shepard

Thomas Shepard - February 02, 2022 at 02:01 PM

FF

“ Fruehling Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald J. Smarker.



Fruehling Family - February 02, 2022 at 11:22 AM

TF

“ My condolences to all of Don's family . I will always have great memories of Don and my Dad (Scott Fruehling) razzing each other and laughing together . Belly laughs that only true friends share together . Whenever we couldn't figure out how to fix or build something Dad would say lets call Smarker ! Don always had a remedy and would show up willing to give us a hand . Even after the passing of my Dad Don would stop by our shop to just say hello and visit . I will miss those times very much .

Todd Fruehling

Todd Fruehling - February 02, 2022 at 11:20 AM



“ . purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Donald J. Smarker.



. - January 31, 2022 at 10:21 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Donald J. Smarker.



January 31, 2022 at 01:32 PM



“ Don and his son Brian were with my tour of southwestern Germany. My roommate, Susan Keipp, had very recently recovered from knee replacement surgery and they very graciously traded rooms with us. We greatly appreciated that. We had our last dinner at our home base village together. That topped off a most enjoyable tour. I remember Don as quiet-spoken and a real gentleman. My condolences.
Grace Horner

Grace Horner - January 31, 2022 at 09:18 AM



“ I will never forget the memories I shared with Don, Betty and the rest of their family. From parade rides in the Hupmobile to family dinners. Don, you are loved and missed more than you will ever know. Love from Kate and Andy.

Kate Smeltzer - January 31, 2022 at 08:59 AM

EA

“ We're Sorry to hear of Don's passing. May he Rest In Peace. Eddie and Laura Arredondo



Eddie and Laura Arredondo - January 30, 2022 at 12:24 PM

PG

“ God's Blessings for Don's family. May you find peace and strength in God's love. All our love. Kem and Peggy Gollither

Peggy Gollither - January 30, 2022 at 11:23 AM

KC

“ Betty,
We were so shocked to hear of Dons passing. Thoughts and prayers during this difficult time
Callahans

Kevin and Cindy Callahan - January 30, 2022 at 09:27 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald J. Smarker.



January 30, 2022 at 09:25 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Don. Don was always the quintessential nice guy that rarely made a negative comment. Doug Hughes

Douglas Hughes - January 30, 2022 at 09:05 AM

DS

“ Sorry to hear of Don’s passing. How quickly things can change, he was at my birthday party, just a month ago. We worked together many times at P&G. He helped train me in Metal Trades craft, when he was in the tractor shop. We shared an office, when they did away with our craft and put us to managing projects. Don was very good and conscientious at the craft we shared and I learned a lot from him. Many rounds on the golf course with him. Miss those days. He will be missed.

Don Stroup - January 29, 2022 at 03:42 PM

PM

“ Patty Meier lit a candle in memory of Donald J. Smarker



Patty Meier - January 29, 2022 at 12:41 PM

GS

“ Betty, Brad and Annette, we were saddened to hear of Don's passing. May you find Peace and comfort in the memories you share. R.I.P. Don.

Geary, Diane & Family

Geary & Diane Slover - January 29, 2022 at 12:38 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald J. Smarker.*



January 28, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Donald J. Smarker.*



January 28, 2022 at 08:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald J. Smarker.*



January 28, 2022 at 07:02 PM