



James Richard Smith

January 3, 1935 - November 10, 2016

James Richard Smith, 81, Topeka, left this world on Thursday, November 10, 2016, to join our heavenly Father.

Jim was born January 3, 1935, in Topeka, the son of Joseph and Gladys Burdick Smith. He graduated from Highland Park High School in 1953. On May 22, 1954, Jim and J. Delores Waetzig were united in marriage. They enjoyed 57 wonderful years together. Jim was the 2nd generation to operate College Hill Plumbing and Heating. He retired on February 1, 2000, passing it on to the 3rd generation. Jim taught plumbing for many years at Kaw Area Vo-Tech School, now the Washburn Institute of Technology.

In his younger years, Jim was a Boy Scout and went on to become Scout Master for Troop #178 (Town & Country Christian Church). He loved to square dance and was a member of the Strato Jets. Jim was also a member of the New Beginnings Choir. Jim was a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Grateful to have shared his life are his children, Kevin Smith, Keith Smith (Brenda), Kim Scharrer and Kendi Knox (Bill), all of Topeka; grandchildren, Matthew (Lacilyn), Phillip, Nathan (Sheralyn), Travis (Kielyn), Christopher (Mary), Dylan (Brittany), Mindy (Matthew) and Ryan; step-grandsons, Dane,

Bill and Shawn; 15 great-grandchildren; sister, Marilyn Shumate; sister-in-law, Leetha Smith; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Delores, in 2011; son-in-law, John Scharrer; brother, Ted Smith and sister, Carol Smith.

Family will greet friends from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Town & Country Christian Church, 4925 SW 29th Street, Topeka KS, 66614.

Burial will follow at West Lawn Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Walnut View Christian Church or Town & Country Christian Church, sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

West Lawn Memorial Gardens

I-70 & Auburn Road
Topeka, KS 66615

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Funeral Service

NOV 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Town and Country Christian Church
4925 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66614

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Richard Smith



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - November 15, 2016 at 01:22 PM



“ James Richard Smith

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Keith, so sorry to hear about your Dad. Thinking of you and your family!
Curt & Benette

Curt & Benette - November 17, 2016 at 09:15 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard Smith.



November 16, 2016 at 05:56 PM

BS

“ We square danced with both Jim and Delores and first became acquainted with them at a square dance weekend in Warsaw, MO. There was just this special "something" about them. After Jim returned to dancing after the loss of his wife, he started calling us his "Cuz" because we are Smith's. We will sure miss his smiling face and his good humor.

Bob & Marlene Smith

Bob & Marlene Smith - November 16, 2016 at 10:26 AM

KM

“ My wife and I first met Jim Smith at an Ottawa Promenaders' dance in January, 2015. Ellen and I had only been back to square dancing a short time after a twenty year layoff and this was the first time we had gone out of town for a dance. There we were at a square dance club we had never been to before and we did not know anyone there. We were sitting there alone and the first person who came up to us was Jim. He welcomed us, asked us about ourselves and talked about square dancing. We came away that night thinking what a friendly club it was. It was only later that we realized that Jim was not actually a member of the club. Jim was just being Jim - friendly and welcoming.

In the almost two years since then we have seen Jim at many, many dances. Jim did not just support one or two clubs, he supported them all. We were always seeing helping at lessons, workshops, and demos.

Jim was always upbeat, friendly and welcoming. I wishing I was more like him. We should all try to be more like him - friendly, welcoming to new people, and helping where we can.

Kenneth Morris - November 13, 2016 at 12:22 PM