



Scott Smith

December 29, 1967 - May 27, 2022

Scott Eaton Smith, 54, Topeka, Kansas, passed away suddenly on May 27th. Known for his wry wit, intelligence, and keen sense of humor, he was a beloved friend and the go-to guy when anyone needed help. A devout Catholic, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus and volunteered to teach a Catholic Catechism class at Cair Paravel where all of his children have or are attending. He will be forever admired and sorely missed.

Scott was born in Tachikawa, Japan while his father was serving in the US Air Force. He then spent much of his early childhood in Muncie and Ellettsville, IN. He earned his bachelor's degree at Purdue University, his Master's at Washburn University, and his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas.

At the time of his death and at the 25-year career mark, he was serving as the Interim Deputy Commissioner for the Kansas State Department of Education and in the capacity of Director of Career Standards and Assessment Services.

Scott is survived by his loving family, his wife, Elizabeth; daughters, Clara, Amelia, and Audrey; his parents, Damon L. and Dorothy J. Smith; and his brothers, Mark, Matt and his wife Sarah, and their children Charlie, Henry, and Marin Smith. He was a loved Brother-in-Law and Uncle to the Kennedy family, Caryl and Jim, and daughters Emily, Laura, and Julia, Susanna Magee and her daughters, Anabella, Fiona, and Lila, and to Ned and Sally Rissberger.

Elizabeth and her girls are particularly grateful for the outpouring of support the Cair Paravel community and Scott's KSDE colleagues have generously provided.

Visitation will be 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 5, 2022, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday, June 6, 2022, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 SW 17th Street, Topeka KS 66604.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Kansas Land Trust, via klt.org as managing land protected by this trust was one of Scott's favorite pastimes. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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

Rosary

JUN 5. 3:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Scott Smith*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - June 03, 2022 at 09:25 PM

FS

We are extremely saddened to learn of Scott's passing. He was a wonderful man and a devout Catholic.

Francis Slobodnik - June 05, 2022 at 10:18 PM

BI

Elizabeth, Mary and I grieve over your and your daughters' loss. Scott loved all of you deeply and faithfully. He was funny and brilliant and a friend that I wish I knew better. May God comfort all of you. You have our prayers.
Bill Isley

Bill Isley - June 09, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *Scott Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

DD

“ *So sorry for your loss Ms. Dottie. You will be in my prayers-Deb Lyle-Doyle (Edgewood)*

deborah doyle - July 22, 2022 at 07:57 PM

JM

“ *Damon,
Really sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and how hard it must be.*

Jim McCoy

James McCoy - June 07, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Scott Smith.*



June 04, 2022 at 04:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Scott Smith.*



June 03, 2022 at 06:35 PM

JT

“ On behalf of the Kansas Land Trust and myself, I wish to extend my condolences for your deep loss. I know Scott loved to visit and work with prairie restoration on the land that was conserved by Jim Hillesheim. This summer the Kansas Land Trust is working with Jim to expand the conserved prairie and woodlands near Clinton Lake. The Kansas Land Trust already has received generous donations from friends of Scott who grieve his passing. I will personally thank them and also explain how our shared conservation work was so meaningful and important to Scott. The Kansas Land Trust will work to leave a conservation legacy for Scott, his family, and his many friends. Jerry Jost, Kansas Land Trust Director



Jerry Jost, Kansas Land Trust - June 03, 2022 at 11:15 AM

DS

Dear Dottie and Damon,
We just learned of your loss. We are so very sorry. Sending our love,
prayers, and sympathies,
Debbie and Rick Stone
Jonathan and family
Christopher



Debbie Stone - July 22, 2022 at 08:09 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Scott Smith.



June 02, 2022 at 08:07 PM

DG

“ Elizabeth and girls- I am so sorry for your loss I worked with Scott for a decade at KSDE. I considered him a good friend. Scott regularly came to my cubicle, apologized for the interruption and taking up my valuable time, plopped down in a chair and asked me some agency related question then we would then proceed to talk about philosophy, theology, baseball, and sometimes education. I loved talking with him, so smart, witty, and fun. He was so proud of his girls and our conversations were filled with analogies and stories of your lives together. I can't imagine the loss that you are feeling. Please know that we are praying for you and the rest of your family. I respected and admired Scott, the way he did his job, how he never took me for granted, how he always respected my time, and most importantly the role model he was as a boss, husband, father, son, and friend. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to all of you.
Titus 3:1-7

Don Gifford

Don Gifford - June 02, 2022 at 07:06 PM

MK

“ It's far too infrequent that people have the opportunity to work for someone who so clearly cares about people. Somehow our systems, especially bureaucratic ones, seem to elevate people that care more about themselves than they do about others. Scott managed to rise above that and lead from a place of empathy and caring and many of us are better humans because of who he was and how he treated others. He will be missed, but not forgotten.

Matt Krehbiel - June 02, 2022 at 05:36 PM

SK

“ Scott was for sure my Tour buddy w/Gabby being the year under Clara & Christian being w/Amelia we spent many of bus & tour times in conversation & wrangling kiddos.
Ladies I am soooooo Very sorry for your loss! You will most definitely be in my prayers!!!

Suzanne Kates - June 02, 2022 at 05:16 PM

KM

“ Scott was a wonderful, caring individual! Sincere condolences to his family. May your memories and God guide your though this most difficult time.

Kim Mick - June 02, 2022 at 01:32 PM

LS

“ I got a blue child's size dress instead of an adult size. Unable to return I gave to Scott for his daughter. He said Liz wouldn't allow her to wear because way too short. She had a friend that was performing and borrowed the dress, twice. So Scott just donated the dress for others that needed that outfit. He was the star. Like at home and work, Scott was the star. Shine brightly we miss you.
KSDE coworker, Lue Ann Snider

lue ann snider - June 02, 2022 at 12:51 PM

FI

“ from all of us at the Circe Institute purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Scott Smith.



from all of us at the Circe Institute - June 02, 2022 at 09:22 AM

TH

“ Absolutely heartbroken..... Scott pushed me outside my comfort zone, had more faith in me than I had in myself as a single mom raising 3 boys and professionally he gave me opportunities that I would have never had. He would address me daily as Dr. Hoffman when in fact he was the real Dr. He had the biggest heart and was always putting everyone in front of himself. We would chat about Benedictine College due to it being next to my home town, my mom was employed there and my sister was alumni, Scott said he knew at least one of his daughters would attend Benedictine. He was a wonderful father to 3 beautiful girls whom he adored and the love for his wife was magical. I left KSDE 5 years ago but I have never forgotten him or the fact he helped guide me to whom I am today personally and professionally. Rest in peace DR...

Tiffany Hoffman - May 31, 2022 at 08:27 PM

LS

“ Scott Smith will be missed for his kindness in leadership and his sense of humor as well as his intelligence and love for family. Taken to soon

lue ann snider - May 31, 2022 at 04:28 PM