



James "Mike" Smith

October 8, 1946 - November 13, 2019

James "Mike" Smith, 73, of Anna, passed away on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at his home, peacefully surrendering to Alzheimer's, with his wife Judy at his side.

He was born to James Alfred Smith and Marjorie Walter on October 8, 1946 in St. Louis, Missouri.

A 1964 graduate of Anna Jonesboro High School, he also earned a bachelor's degree in Zoology from Murray State Kentucky in 1970. He returned home to the family business, Walter Hardware and in 1979 opened Anna Building Center where he and his wife worked until 2001, when they closed the business.

Mike was known for his creative solutions to engineering and construction problems throughout southern Illinois. The Union County Courthouse was his last project.

His dedication and charitable contribution to Boy Scouts included teaching and sharing his knowledge in woodworking, biological sciences and outdoor skills with children.

Mike was also a novice in culinary arts and enjoyed creating gourmet feasts for family and friends. Mike enjoyed the companionship of many adopted cats and dogs up until the very end.

Mike is survived by his wife, Judy (Basse) and his children, Tabitha and Eric Tripp of Anna, Alison and Chris Poulos of Anna, and Jaron Smith of Varna, Bulgaria; four grandchildren, Gavin and Mikaya Tripp and Elliott and Jude Poulos; his sister, Deborah Fitzgerald and husband Mike; aunt, Peg Walter and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date. The family has asked that memorial contributions be made to PAWS at 139 East Vienna St., Anna, Illinois 62906.

Comments



“ Judy & Family,
My condolences & sincere sympathy.
David 'Herb' Estes

David 'Herb' Estes - December 01, 2019 at 04:06 PM



“ Mike was a good friend both in the store and at his and Judy's home. I have often thought of them when remembering my years in Anna, IL. I'm so sorry to hear of Mike's passing and extend my sympathies to Judy and family. God bless.

Anna Adams (Reusch)

Anna Adams - November 24, 2019 at 07:22 AM



“ So sorry to here of Mike's passing. He was such a great men and mentor for the Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts. I am so glad that my son Bradley was lucky enough to have Mike as a Den leader for several years. I know Mike was a positive influence on many young men's lives through the scouts. My brother even had him in scouts many many years ago.
Prayers for his wife Judy and family.

Amy Travelstead-Casper - November 22, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ Too many to mention. Anna Building Center.....I was treated like family.



Denise Reynolds - November 20, 2019 at 12:32 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear this, Mike helped me many times when I needed advice on projects over the years. My prayers and thoughts are with you all during this sad time. I am so sorry!

Rick Penrod - November 19, 2019 at 10:13 PM



“ I have very fond memories of spending time with Mike in my childhood. He was very active in scouting and was a great storyteller around the campfire. It was also a pleasure working for him as a teenager at Anna Building Center. He had a lot of knowledge to share and I definitely learned a lot from this wonderful man.

Lance Carter - November 19, 2019 at 09:48 PM



“ I am very sorry to hear this. Mike was a big part of my youth, working at Pine Ridge Scout Camp. It was a pleasure to listen to his wit and wisdom as told through Trickster tales around a campfire or picnic table. I was very blessed to be a recipient of many of his tales and instruction. Prayers to his family.

Shawn Banks - November 19, 2019 at 08:21 PM



“ So sorry to hear this. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. God bless you all!

Duane Hoffner - November 19, 2019 at 08:04 PM



“ I am so terribly sorry to see this....my prayers are with you and your family.

Dawn Sullivan Rider - November 19, 2019 at 07:56 PM



“ Darrell and I have such great memories of Mike! Mine were of Mr. Smith, my high school chemistry teacher. I remember the atom zapper gun! I was a horrible chemistry student but he graciously passed me! Then, we came to know him when Darrell worked at Walter Hardware—Darrell’s all-time favorite job! He loved working for the family and in that hardware store! We pray for strength, peace and courage to face the days ahead without Mike.

Darlene Ross - November 19, 2019 at 06:40 PM



“ My sincerely sympathy to Judy and family. Mike helped me with many construction projects when I work for the IL DNR. His construction skills and biological knowledge was a rare combination and we always had a ball visiting together. His contributions to the community were great, most notably his service to the local Boy Scout Troop, a truly unselfish act.- Mike Carter, Missoula, MT

Mike Carter - November 19, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ So sorry to see that Mike has passed away. He and Judy provided a fun & safe hang-out for his nephew, Thomas Campbell, and his friends to hang out in high school. I have lots of fond memories sitting around their dining room table. I also witnessed his dedication to local Boy/Eagle Scouts. Deepest sympathies to Judy, Tabi, Alli, Jaron....and Thomas.

Chris Tucker Brumleve - November 19, 2019 at 04:40 PM



“ Judy I just saw that Mike had passed. I'm so sorry ,prayers to you and the family.

Brenda Day - November 19, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ We have many good memories of Mike through school and on through adulthood. His mind was sharp and he accomplished much in his life. He especially helped our community through teaching, running a business, plus being instrumental in the building of Union County’s newest courthouse. His was a mind and a life taken too soon. We send our sincere sympathy to Judy and the rest of the family. Jim and Shirley Harris

Jim and Shirley Harris - November 16, 2019 at 06:08 PM