



Erica Layne Smith

April 9, 1987 - August 16, 2020

Erica Layne Smith, 33, of Crainville passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, August 16, 2020 in Marion.

She was born on April 9, 1987 in Herrin to Eric and Kristin Yancey Smith. She graduated from Herrin High School in 2005 and was employed at Karen Hart, Inc. in Herrin.

Erica was a beloved daughter, granddaughter, sister, cousin, niece and friend. She had a big heart and was a loving, compassionate, thoughtful and caring person who always put others ahead of herself. Erica never met a stranger and had many friends. She was a free spirit and enjoyed nature and the outdoors and loved to hike, fish and swim. She also enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her younger cousin, Cali Katheryn McGinnis. She was an avid animal lover as well.

She is survived by her parents, Eric and Kristin of Creal Springs; brother, Keegan Smith (Fiancé Katie Prater) of Mary Esther, FL; grandmother, Maxine Smith of Marion; mawmaw, Jolene Yancey of Energy; uncles and aunts, Dr.'s Mark and Gail Smith of Johnston City, Brad and Tracey Smith of Herrin, Tara and Bob Deaton of Herrin, John and Jamie Yancey of Marion, Jennifer and Troy McGinnis of Carbondale and aunt, Leslie Smith of Carterville; several great aunts and uncles, cousins, and countless friends and her four beloved

cats.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Kenneth Smith and pawpaw, John Yancey; uncle, Chad Smith.

Erica was a ray of sunshine and an indescribably beautiful rainbow and she lived and loved and will forever be with us.

The family will host a private memorial gathering at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4029 Big Muddy Rd., Carterville, IL 62918.

Tribute Wall



“ *Erica Layne Smith*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Dear Jolene and Kristen,
I am so sorry that you have been thrown onto this path of grief. My heart breaks for your loss. You're in my prayers. If I can help in any other way, 'friend' me on FB.
Anne (Bruyns/Gipson) Mileur*

Anne Mileur - September 05, 2020 at 09:50 AM



“ *I remember Erica as a tall, sweet, beautiful blond little girl. I was her principal in elementary school. She always had a smile for me when I saw her in the hallways. I can still see that beautiful little person. I saw Erica a few times over the past couple of years and we would talk for a while. She always had hope and plans I enjoyed talking to her and she pulled at my heartstrings. I'm so sorry for your loss of this precious girl.*

Marie Campanella

Marie Campanells - August 28, 2020 at 02:19 PM



*Thank you Marie. I recall speaking with you in the boutique where Erica worked in the latter part of 2019. Erica loved you.
Eric*

Eric Smith - August 29, 2020 at 06:14 PM

JB

“ I haven't the words to say, but alas, here I am. Erica was many things but above all else, she was good--good as gold. She was a bewildering spirit that was nothing shy of prepossessing. She was kind, loyal, insightful, funny, and loving. I regret years of silence between us, but that void doesn't overshadow the memories we made and the impact she had on my life as a whole. I know I'm not alone in feeling this way. Kristin, Eric, and Keegan, my thoughts are with you.



Jordan Bennett - August 23, 2020 at 02:20 AM

ES

*Thank you for the lovely words Jordan.
Eric*

Eric Smith - August 25, 2020 at 11:50 AM

TN

“ *She was so very kind to me when our daughter Ashley passed.
Both beautiful inside and outside!*

Tammy Nelson - August 22, 2020 at 02:33 PM

ES

*Thank you Tammy. We now know the pain that is so familiar to you.
Eric*

Eric Smith - August 25, 2020 at 11:51 AM

KC

“ Erica was one of the most beautiful individuals I ever met. Both inside and out. She brightened the world with her lovely smile and kindness. She was fun loving, free spirited and a true friend. She never met a stranger. She made your soul lighter just by being around her. I am thankful for the opportunity to know her and grateful to have her for a friend. She worked with us and was an important part of our Villa Rosa family. My heart breaks that I will never hear her sweet laughter, inspiring kind words and amazing smile. I will miss her and cherish the memories. My thoughts and prayers are with her Mom, Dad and brother. As well as the rest of her family and many, many friends she left behind. I know she is dancing in the sky, swimming with dolphins and finding all the secret magic in the universe.

Kimberly Coloni - August 21, 2020 at 07:57 PM

ES

*Thank you,
Eric*

Eric Smith - August 22, 2020 at 08:41 AM

BP

“ *Fly high sweet girl*

Beth phillips - August 21, 2020 at 09:26 AM

ES

*Thank you,
Eric*

Eric Smith - August 22, 2020 at 08:41 AM

MF

“ Eric, Kristen, and Keegan, Monte and I extend our love and heartfelt condolences to you and the rest of the family. She was indeed a sweet spirit with an infectious smile. Prayers for your life without her.

Monte and Bonnie Freanklin - August 21, 2020 at 09:24 AM

ES

Thanks guys,
Eric

Eric Smith - August 22, 2020 at 08:42 AM

TG

“ I want to send my sincerest condolences to Erica's family... And I pray that you all can find peace and strength in this time of grief. We all lost a beautiful soul and I feel that I lost my friend and a big piece of my heart. ❤️🙏

Terrance Gunn - August 20, 2020 at 11:35 PM

SY

“ With sincere sympathy to the family. May Peace accompany you in this trying time.
Sincerely,
Sue Young, Bliss McKnight

Sue Young - August 20, 2020 at 03:52 PM

ES

Thank you Sue,
Eric

Eric Smith - August 21, 2020 at 08:52 AM



“ My ❤️



Lynn Bloodworth - August 20, 2020 at 05:32 AM

ES

*Thank you. Love the pic.
Eric*

Eric Smith - August 22, 2020 at 08:43 AM

CF

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



chekoda frick - August 19, 2020 at 08:31 PM

CF

Erica had a heart of gold and a beautiful soul. She will forever be missed. Words cannot describe the impact she could make in a persons life. All who met her, loved her.

chekoda frick - August 19, 2020 at 08:33 PM

AK

I love you Erica n will miss your compassion, love for life, and beautiful heart ❤️ Fly High Lovely Lady

Annette Keigley - August 19, 2020 at 09:43 PM

BS

Eric and Kristin, our deepest, heartfelt sympathies to you and your families on the loss of your beautiful girl. We will always remember little Erica's bright smile on the first day she walked into children's church. Swinford Publications has received the obituary and it will publish it in all three of our Williamson County papers next week. We also have sent it out to hundreds of our subscribers via our email update. If you'd like to see that, also, just email bill.publisher@frontier.com and we will forward it to you.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go through this. -- Bill & Kim Swinford

Bill Swinford - August 21, 2020 at 07:48 AM

TD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tara Deaton - August 19, 2020 at 05:18 PM

ES

*Thanks Sis,
Eric*

Eric Smith - August 22, 2020 at 08:44 AM