



Jerry R. Smith

March 2, 1952 - May 18, 2023

Jerry Ray Smith, 71 of Kearney passed away Thursday, May 18, 2023 at his home surrounded by family. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 25, 2023 at First United Methodist Church in Kearney with Pastor Matt Fowler officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Jerry was born March 2, 1952 in North Platte, NE to Lester and Verda (Swain) Smith. He attended North Platte High School graduating with the class of 1970. Jerry then attended North Platte Jr. College from 1971-1972. During that time he worked his way through college as a radio DJ and a surgery crew member at Memorial Hospital. In December of 1972, Jerry moved to Kearney where he attended Kearney State College from 1972-1976 while working as a youth counselor at Mid Nebraska Community Action. He also volunteered as a soccer coach for 10 years and played on two coed soccer teams.

Jerry was an active member of the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department serving as a firefighter/EMT with the department. He was an attack firefighter,

arson investigator, and a Hazardous material Team member. Jerry was also very active in the United Methodist Church where he had been a member of over 50 years. He was involved in Stephen's Ministries, youth ministry and went on numerous mission trips. Jerry loved to fish, hunt, paint, write, photography and taking long drives.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Dedra Smith of Kearney; children, Shane (Kari) Smith of Holdrege, Ryan (Anita) Smith of Kearney and Leslie (Scott) Rief of Kearney; 9 grandchildren, Crystal, Jessica, Autumn, McKaden, Kyenna, Cope, Creighton, Skyler, and Cohen; stepchildren, Brittany Harp, Ashley Roberts, Cassandra Roberts and Jeremiah Roberts, Jr.; brother, Russ (Sandy) Smith of Kearney; nephew; mother of his children, Rhonda Smith of Kearney; as well as many extended family and friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; and niece.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 25. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

RK

“ I have so many memories of Jerry from my youth group days at FUMC! He sponsored many trips I went on and gave me the nickname of BamBam because I was great at roofing and nailing the shingles in fast. He did lose a bit of hair with a nair prank we pulled on him but I think he got us back with eggs. He kept in touch as I grew older and made sure to say hi every time we ran into each other in town. He will be missed by many. My prayers to family and friends as Heaven gained a great angel! Job well done Jerry!



Rebecca A Krieg - May 23, 2023 at 01:45 PM

JK

“ Jerry was a great friend growing up as neighbors. He always wanted to be in a band and would give us little concerts. So many fun times in that neighborhood on Wright Avenue. Kick the can, annie annie over, dances, and just hanging out! My prayers go out to his family and friends

Jacki Karre - May 21, 2023 at 08:59 PM