

## Richard Lee Smith

March 1, 1937 - March 26, 2020

Richard Lee Smith, 83, of Kearney passed away March 26, 2020 at Kearney Regional Hospital. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated at a later time. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Richard was born on March 1, 1937 in Luther, Iowa, to Joseph and Nancy (Steen) Smith. He grew up in Boone, Iowa, and received his education at Boone Public School. He was united in marriage to Deborah Redfern on July 14, 1970. After which the couple lived in Hastings, Nebraska. The couple moved to Kearney in 1974 where Richard managed the Kearney World Theater (World Twin) and the Kearney Drive-In theater for 40 years. His love of movies continued throughout retirement.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Deborah Smith of Kearney; daughter, Erica and her husband, Lonnie Kotschwar and their children, Anthony and Christine of Fremont; daughter, Malinda Hock and her children, Izabel, Greyson, and Stella of Wymore; daughter, Alicia and her husband, Derek Richards and their children, Addison and Harper of Hays Center; son, Devon Smith of Kearney; and one sister.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Lee Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Richard's mom, Aunt Nancy was my grandfather's (William B Steen)'s sister. Condolences to your family.*

**Michelle Wolf** - May 15, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ *Rest In Peace dad, love, your daughter Kim Barry*

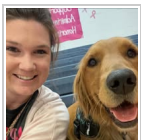
**kim** - March 30, 2020 at 02:30 PM



“ *Debbie,  
So sorry to read of Dick's death. We had a good time teaching at Overton and many memories of seeing him at the World theater. I remember baby sitting one evening for Erica so you guys could have a night out. She was just a baby. Thinking of you and your family.*

*Jeannie Lewis Homan*

**Jeannie Lewis Homan** - March 30, 2020 at 02:16 PM



“ *Mrs. Smith, I'm so sorry to hear this. Thoughts and prayers with your family. - Katie (Strate) Holland*

**Kathryn Holland** - March 30, 2020 at 09:11 AM

KT

“ *Deb,  
Please know that our sympathy goes out to you and the rest of your family with the loss of your husband. I never got to know him all that well, but I consider you as part of the Richards "extended" family, along with the fact that you and I did manage to have a couple of trips to Omaha together for tech conferences where you and I both had fun with "NOT" getting lost... No doubt you had a few stories you told Dick about the time we had there with Sue Divan. Hugs and prayers going out to you all. Tom & Kerry Thompson*

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**Kerry Thompson** - March 28, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Smith.*



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March 28, 2020 at 06:29 PM

KR

“ *Rest In Peace Dad, Love from your daughter Kim Barry*

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**Kiim Barry, daughter of Richard** - March 28, 2020 at 05:57 PM

JK

“ Dearest Debbie, Girls and Devon - My sincere sympathy to you in the loss of your husband and father. I have so many wonderful memories of Richard, working with him and the "crew" at the World Theater, during my high school years. I remember the day he gave me a huge blue and gold button to wear when I was working - it read, "only love beats buttered popcorn" (wish I still had it), he told me "with that smile of yours, this button will cheer everyone up whether they buy popcorn or not". From that day on I wore it with pride, and it did make many people smile. My prayers to you all, Joanie Patsios-Klein. Memory Eternal Richard.

Joanie Klein - March 28, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Smith.



March 28, 2020 at 11:41 AM



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



March 27, 2020 at 10:54 PM

LO

“ From your eldest daughter. I still carry the Smith name. Lorri Smith-Gill. Rest in peace

Lorri - March 27, 2020 at 09:16 PM