



## Thomas H. Smith

March 11, 1947 - April 22, 2026

Thomas H. Smith, 79 of Kearney passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at Mother Hull Home in Kearney. A celebration of life will be held at 12:00 p.m. Monday, April 27, 2026 at the Kearney American Legion.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. 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.

Tom was born March 11, 1947 in Hamilton County, NE to Thomas and Adah (Lancaster) Smith. He grew up in Aurora, NE and graduated from Aurora High School. Tom was united in marriage to Ardith Menke in August of 1967 at the Ellis Methodist Church in Ellis, NE.

Tom served in the U.S. Army from June of 1970 until January of 1972. Following his honorable discharge, he then served 18 years in the Nebraska National Guard. He was a proud member of the Kearney American Legion and the Veterans Memorial Wall Committee.

Tom was employed for 43 years at Kearney YRTC as a Correctional Counselor Supervisor and Assistant Superintendent. In retirement, Tom enjoyed spending time "working out".

Tom was very active in his three sons' sports activities, baseball, track, soccer

and wrestling.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Ardith Smith of Kearney; sons, TJ (Amy) Smith, Ryan Smith and Brett Smith; 11 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; 4 brothers; 3 sisters-in-law; one brother-in-law; and his mother-in-law and father-in-law.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kearney American Legion  
1223 Central Ave  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ *Sorry for your loss.* ”



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**Bill Gauthier** - April 27 at 11:04 AM

MN

“ *So sorry to hear about Tom he was great class mate. I still think about catching a pass from Hansen then pitching the ball to Tom so he could run for the touchdown!! Rest in peace.* ”

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**Mike Newman** - April 26 at 09:13 PM

KM

“ *Just want to share my condolences! Always appreciated being around Tom! Great guy! Enjoyed my time with him! So Sorry for your loss! Ken Mumm.* ”

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**Ken Mumm** - April 26 at 04:00 PM

KS

“ *Tom was my supervisor for over 35 years at YRTC/YDC. He tried to portray himself as a tough army veteran, which he was, but underneath was a compassionate heart who wanted everyone to get a fair shake. At the same time, he had zero tolerance for nonsense. We will miss you Tom!*  
*Keith Scheidies* ”

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**Keith Scheidies** - April 26 at 08:46 AM



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



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April 25 at 06:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas H. Smith.

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April 25 at 06:39 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas H. Smith.*



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April 25 at 01:12 PM



“ *Your Buffalo Ridge Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Thomas H. Smith.*



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**Your Buffalo Ridge Family** - April 24 at 11:27 AM

DK

“ Tom was a great co%worker when I was working at YDC. I was pleased to call him a friend as well. My condolences to Ardith and the boys. David Kucera

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David L Kucera - April 23 at 06:58 PM

JS

“ John S. purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Thomas H. Smith.



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John S. - April 23 at 05:41 PM

JS

“ John S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas H. Smith.

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John S. - April 23 at 05:41 PM

SS

“ Thomas H. Was my section Sargent in the National Guard and great friend! Words are failing me now, but I will never forget him!

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Steve Spellman - April 23 at 05:17 PM

CC

“ Oh Tom! Our dear friend! SO many memories! We love you and you made the decision it was time and you said “ok God, let’s do this”! You and Ardith created a beautiful family and they will be here for her! I know it comforts you! You truly are one of a kind! I “got! You! We will take care of Ardith as the three of us continue this journey together! Ron and I love you both!!

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Connie Cox - April 23 at 03:55 PM

JJ

“ *JUDY JENSEN-BEISHEIM lit a candle in memory of Thomas Smith*



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**JUDY JENSEN-BEISHEIM** - April 23 at 02:13 PM

BS

“ *Always enjoyed seeing Tom. Ardy, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏❤️*

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**Barbara Sandrock** - April 23 at 11:29 AM

TS

“ *Heartfelt condolences to Ardith and family! I've known Tom for as long as I can remember, a close friend in grade school encouraging me to participate. An occasional word to 'find my strengths, my way' through high school. Although time and distance separated us for decades, I was renewed by Tom's cheerful spirit, shared with us at the AHS Class of 65 reunions I was able to attend. I remember and cherish the fun times and will continue to do so.*

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**Tony Strotman** - April 23 at 07:52 AM