



Richard Lee Smith

January 4, 1938 - December 23, 2015

Richard Lee Smith, age 77, of Aurora, Illinois died on Wednesday, December 23, 2015. Dick was born in Quincy, Illinois on January 4, 1938 to Harold E. and Lois Smith of Carbon, Iowa. Both are deceased.

Dick is survived by his wife of 56 years Judy (Hofner) Smith, their sons Kevin (Debbie) of Melrose Park, Illinois and Keith of Aurora, Illinois; step-granddaughter, Donna Jallits of Bethpage, New York, grandsons Mark and David Smith both of Aurora, Illinois; two brothers, Harold S. (Constantina) of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Michael (Linda) Smith of Thousand Palms, California, and all of his friends at McDonalds.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a brother, Paul A. Smith of Prescott Valley, Arizona in 2006.

Dick grew up mostly in Des Moines, Iowa. While he was in school there he danced in a square dance with his classmates at The Iowa State Fair. He also briefly attended school in Carbon, Iowa, then after in Des Moines, Iowa he attended school in Naperville, Illinois. He graduated from East Aurora High School in Aurora, Illinois in 1956.

In Naperville he worked for a florist and there he developed his love for flowers.

During high school he spent two summers in Cody, Wyoming, the eastern entrance to Yellowstone National Park, working as a bell hop. He was paid 15 cents for every bag he carried.

After graduating from high school he worked for The United State Post Office

for eleven years as a letter carrier. He then went to work for Illinois Bell Telephone, and the subsequent changes of their name, for the next 28 years being promoted to foreman. His last ten years with the phone company he worked in Chicago, Illinois in their computer division.

Dick and his wife Judy enjoyed traveling after retirement. He visited 44 states of the USA and 25 National Parks. The couple also visited Mexico, Canada, Europe and took cruises to islands in the Caribbean, South America, through the Panama Canal, and to Alaska and Siberian Russia.

Dick enjoyed fishing and the outdoors. His love was photography-especially flowers and nature. He was a long time member of the Fox Valley Camera Club and served six terms as their President. He was also a member of the Sandwich Photographic Society and served two terms as Secretary. He was seen most often with a camera in his hands and a camera bag over his shoulder. He will be heaven's master photographer.

He always had an idea of how to fix things or make them work better. He even took his tool kit on vacations where he would put knobs back on dresser drawers in hotels and fixed the window frame and dresser drawer on a cruise ship. He even adapted some of his photographic equipment to hold parts of the workings for the Proton Beam radiation procedure in Warrenville, Illinois. Funeral services will be Monday, December 28, 2015 beginning at 11:30 AM with prayers at the funeral home to St. Rita of Cascia Church for the funeral mass at 12:00 noon. Burial to follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Aurora. Visitation will be held Sunday, December 27, 2015 from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM, with a Liturgical Wake Service at 4:00 PM, at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 North Lake Street, Aurora, Illinois 60506. Please visit www.daleidenmortuary to visit Dick's memorial page and to leave condolences to the family. For additional information friends are invited to contact the funeral home at 630-631-5500.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

Corner of Rt. 25 and Indian Trail Road.
Aurora, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **27**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Funeral Mass

DEC **28**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Rita of Cascia Church
750 Old Indian Trail
Aurora, IL 60506
1-630-892-5918

Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Lee Smith



Daleiden Mortuary - December 24, 2015 at 09:20 AM

KW

God speed my dear friend Dick - you will certainly be missed by all your McDonald's friends but even more so by me - Love, Kathy

Kathy Walz - December 24, 2015 at 03:00 PM

SM

“ We will sure miss our visits when you would come for family and Carbon reunions.
I enjoy the picture of him in his signature blue shirt. I enjoyed our visit in October.
I will miss the geneolgy conversations and hunting for more relatives.
Sorry I couldn't come for the services.
You will have to the reunions next year. Dick said he was going to make them, so I am sure he will be here is spirit
Stephanie

Stephanie Morin - December 28, 2015 at 02:23 PM

JO

“ *Judy,
Losing someone as special as Dick is never easy. We appreciate knowing that we were able to be a part of his life for these past few years. We realize that we are blessed to have been able to share the special times we had with both of you. We loved hearing his stories. We appreciated his warmth, humor, kindness, and eternal optimism. He was a very special part of our lives and we loved all that he shared. I'll miss his "keep smiling" as we started our day. Our condolences,
Jean and Steve O'Brien*

Jean O'Brien - December 27, 2015 at 12:55 PM

SS

“ *Sandwich Photographic Society SPS purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Richard Lee Smith.*



Sandwich Photographic Society SPS - December 26, 2015 at 11:58 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Smith.*



December 25, 2015 at 01:48 PM

KD

“ *Judy and family,*

I'm sorry to hear the loss of your husband at tonight's mass. He was a regular at our 4:30 Saturday mass family, and he will be greatly missed. I will keep your family in my prayers. I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend any services for your family, as I will be out of town.

Kris Dugan - December 24, 2015 at 11:43 PM

JK

“ *Judy, Kevin, Keith, Mark and David*

My mother and I are so sorry for your loss. Dick was a very special man not only to us but anybody that knew him. He helped me learn the ropes to maintaining my pool. Whenever I called he would stop what he was doing and come over. He knew I needed a new computer and advised me on which one to buy. I don't think in my days I will find a nicer person than Dick. I will always remember him saying "keep smiling".



Dick also told Mom to enter her hand made embroidery table cloth in the Sandwich Fair because he was so proud of her work, especially for someone 93 years old. I know God will be with you every step of the way. McDonald's friends will really miss him.

Love, Judy and Marie

Judy Kossert - December 23, 2015 at 10:10 PM

KW

“ Judy, Kevin, Keith, Mark and David

I am so sorry for your loss. Dick was a very special man and I know in my lifetime I will never find another friendship like ours. I have been sitting next to Dick at McDonalds six mornings a week for almost six years. His kindness and willingness to offer a helping hand to me after my husband passed away got me through many long, lonely days. McDonalds will not be the same without his smiling face and special personality. I pray for each of you that God will hold your hands as he guides you through the days ahead.



Kathy Walz - December 23, 2015 at 09:28 PM