



## Richard S. Smith

August 25, 1948 - November 21, 2021

Richard “Smitty” Smith passed away peacefully on November 21st. Smitty was the son of the late Paul J. Smith and Helen Lahti, both of Negaunee. Smitty proudly served his country through three tours in Vietnam while in the Navy. Afterwards he attended NMU and received a BA in Mechanical Engineering. In Marquette, he worked for the Public Works Dept and at UPPCO. He and his wife, Deanna (D), purchased and ran the Walleye Lodge Resort on Lake Gogebic in Bergland, MI. Smitty enjoyed a good party and loved to host family reunions at his resort. He was a member of the Lake Gogebic & Western UP Chambers of Commerce and the Marquette and White Pine American Legions. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish.

Smitty married into the “Cootware Clan” and was loved by his extended family. Smitty & D had two children together, Jaclyn and Crystal. Smitty also had two older girls from a previous marriage, Bridgit (Chris) Adams & Jennifer (Chad) Kielas. D loved to tease Smitty about his “four girls,” but he got boys with his grandsons: Brendan, Connor, Liam, Van & Jax. Rich had one granddaughter, Samantha, who also made him proud.

Smitty is survived by his brothers Paul and Don, his sisters Paulette Samson and Judy Frailing, his sister-in laws Susie (Neil) Stenfors, Paulette (Mike) Holmes, Donna (Greg) Stahlmann, Michelle (Bill) Schirtzinger, and his best

friend Bob “Kaj” Katajamaki.

Smitty was preceded in death by his siblings Patricia Zupancic, Susie Weber, Carol Rytkenon, his in-laws Donna and Jack Cootware and his brother-in-law John Cootware.

In honor of Smitty, wear your jeans to the funeral and be ready to tell your favorite Smitty stories. In lieu of flowers (D’s allergic), please make a donation to the Fisher House in Richard’s name or send a non-flowering plant. Fisher House, [www.fisherhousewi.org](http://www.fisherhousewi.org), offers temporary housing and meals for veterans’ families and we are forever thankful for how well they took care of us.

Visitation will be held at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain, MI, on Saturday, December 11th from 1pm to 3pm with memorial service to follow at 3pm at the funeral home.

Condolences to the family of Richard “Smitty” Smith may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Memorial Service

DEC 11. 3:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ *Rest in Peace Smitty.*

*My deepest sympath Dee to you and your family.*

*Alayna*

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**Alayna Hooper** - December 11, 2021 at 02:38 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard S. Smith.*



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December 08, 2021 at 11:52 AM

TS

“ *The Angel Foundation Staff purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Richard S. Smith.*



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**The Angel Foundation Staff** - December 06, 2021 at 06:20 PM

TA

“ *Terry L. Awrey lit a candle in memory of Richard S. Smith*



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**Terry L. Awrey** - December 06, 2021 at 01:31 PM

TA

*I never had the honor to meet you sir, but I thank you for your service. Rest in Peace Mr. Smith.*

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**Terry L. Awrey** - December 06, 2021 at 01:34 PM

EL

“ *Condolences to Dee, Smitty's family and his many, many friends. Smitty was gruff but had a great sense of purpose and humor, and he used these attributes well. He was a hard worker who cared for his family and I'm sure he will be greatly missed.*

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**Eric Luttinen** - December 06, 2021 at 11:53 AM

BA

“ *My first memory of my Dad is playing hide and go seek. I couldn't find him anywhere outside and was getting frustrated. Suddenly, my Dad was in front of me growling with his arms spread. He had hidden in a small tree and jumped down as I walked under it. According to my Mom, I ran inside screaming and flew under my bed. And that is my first memory of Dear Old Dad.*

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**Bridgit Adams** - December 05, 2021 at 01:24 PM