



Joel T. Smith

October 10, 1946 - June 13, 2024

Joel T. Smith, 77, of Vermilion, died Thursday June 13, 2024 while surrounded by his family at the Louis Stokes Veterans Administration Wade Park Hospital in Cleveland after a three-year battle with ALS.

He was born October 10, 1946 in Lorain to Joseph & Olga Smith (nee Virant). He graduated from Admiral King High School, served with the US Navy during the Vietnam War and graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor Degree in Business.

Joel worked at the WSOS Community Action Commission in Fremont for 25 years. After he retired, he purchased North Coast Security, a lock shop in Fremont, which he operated from 1996-2010 before selling and retiring.

Joel lived in Fremont for over 40 years and was a member of the Fremont Rotary Club. For 13 years, he enjoyed spending his winters in Mexico. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing pool, traveling and gardening.

He is survived by his wife of 17 years Diane “Dee Dee” Smith (nee Murray), children: Anthony J. March and Shane L. March (fiancé Janet); stepsons: Brett Heighberger (Leslie), Matthew Heighberger (Michelle) and Kyle Heighberger (fiancé Jewel); 5 grandsons and 1 granddaughter; sister Marcel Culkar and brother Gary Smith (Trudy). He was preceded in death by his

parents Joseph “JP” Smith & Olga Smith (nee Virant).

The family will receive friends Wednesday June 19, 2024 from 2:00-6:00 pm at the Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel, 3224 Broadway, Lorain. Funeral services will be held Wednesday June 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the funeral chapel.

Online condolences can be made on www.gluvnashimohromada.com

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the ALS Association at https://donate.als.org/give/287064/#!/donation/checkout?c_src=jumppage

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **19**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel
3224 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055
(440) 246-2118
gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com
<http://www.gluvnashimohromada.com>

Funeral Service

JUN **19**. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel
3224 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055
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gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com
<http://www.gluvnashimohromada.com>

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with DeeDee and the whole family. Joel was a wonderful man and the world will certainly feel his loss. We were lucky to know him and we miss him very much. May he rest in peace.

Curtis, Laura, Phoenix * and Evren Hardy - July 01, 2024 at 02:58 PM

MS

“ Our deepest sympathies to all of the family. May the Lord bless him and keep him and may he shine his perpetual light upon Joel. Prayers for comfort and peace to all Joel's loved ones.
Hugs,
Michelle, Dub & Family 🙏❤️

michelle siwierka - June 19, 2024 at 12:51 PM

LG

“ I had the privilege of working with Joel as I started my professional career. I learned so much from his through his support, guidance and education. He has always had a special place in my memories. God speed Joel, thank you for everything.

Linda L. Gangwer-Havens - June 18, 2024 at 07:11 PM

BK

“ Bruce, Brett, Leslie, Alex, Gavin, Katie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joel T. Smith.



Bruce, Brett, Leslie, Alex, Gavin, Katie - June 18, 2024 at 07:01 PM

BK

“ I was very sorry to hear this. Joel hired me at WSOS and we worked together closely for a number of years. Joel was very conscientious about using community development tools to make the world a better place, especially for those who were often left behind. My condolences to the family.

Ben Kenny - June 17, 2024 at 10:06 PM

MB

Dee Dee, you and your family are in my Prayers. Your former neighbor, Mark, across Port Clinton Road at the time that you and Joel moved to Vermilion.

Mark Behnfeldt - June 18, 2024 at 08:30 PM

PK

As his cousin Patricia Smith Kovacs I too have learned a lot from Joel. The family came out to our little farm in Avon, Ohio What a loving and caring man. I am so glad DD shared her love for him for over 17 years. I will miss him. May time heal their broken hearts. Patricia Ann

Patricia Kovacs - June 19, 2024 at 04:47 PM

NC

“ My sincere condolences to all the family in the passing of Joel. DeeDee, you did everything possible to make him happy and comfortable. May he rest in peace and in your heart



Nancy Cline - June 17, 2024 at 07:44 PM

SW

“ Sherwin Williams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joel T. Smith.

Sherwin Williams - June 17, 2024 at 03:30 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joel T. Smith.*



June 17, 2024 at 03:30 PM



“ *Joel fit right in with the Murray family, and I always enjoyed talking with him at family events. He will be missed.*

Megan Chawansky - June 16, 2024 at 08:44 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies and condolences for your loss of a husband, father, grandfather and stepdad. We were very unfortunate to have known Joel for such a short time. Karen and Joe Schmitz, friends from Mexico. (He was like the brother I never had, Joe)*



Joseph Schmitz - June 16, 2024 at 12:15 AM



“ *Dearest Family, You have our Deepest Sympathy and you are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Larry and Karen Cronin*

Karen Cronin - June 15, 2024 at 10:51 AM