



# Deacon John A Smith

FEB 9, 1934 - APR 12, 2015



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## **Deacon John A Smith**

FEB 9, 1934 - APR 12, 2015

**D**eacon John A. Smith, age 81, of Lewes, DE passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the Delaware Veterans Home in Milford, DE. He was born on February 9, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY, son of the late Alphonsus and Mary (Mahoney) Smith.

Mr. Smith proudly served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict and received an Honorable Discharge in 1954. He graduated from the NYPD Police Academy in 1957, served the City of New York for 23 years in the rank of Patrolman and retired from service in 1980. During his tenure with the NYPD he was inducted into the NYPD Honor Legion for an act of heroism resulting in saving the life of a fellow Patrolman. Following his retirement from the NYPD, Mr. Smith entered the New York Army National Guard serving in the 42nd Infantry Division. He attained the rank of Sergeant First Class, retired from service in 1995, and relocated to Lewes with his wife, Anna, to enjoy their retirement.

In 1984, Mr. Smith was ordained a Roman Catholic Deacon and ministered in New York for 12 years. "Deacon John" devoted 15 years to ministering in Lewes and Rehoboth Beach with St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church and St. Edmond Catholic Church. He especially loved ministering to homebound residents in the area and actively supported the Good Shepherd Fund at Dover Air Force Base that provides financial assistance to enlisted personnel in time of need.

Deacon John was a lifetime member of the VFW Post #7447 in Rehoboth Beach where he served as Chaplain and Commander. He was a member of American Legion Post #5 in Rehoboth Beach, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) the oldest and largest Irish Catholic Fraternal organization, Deacon John served as Chaplain with the Disabled American Veterans, and served as Chaplin for the Knights of Columbus Star of the Sea Council #7297. He enjoyed an occasional round of golf with friends. Above all he loved his family, helping and serving others and will forever be remembered as a selfless man of God.



## Obituary

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In addition to his parents, Deacon John was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph F. Smith. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 59 years, Anna V. Smith of Lewes, DE; three daughters: Barbara A. Swenson and her husband Al of Palm Harbor, FL, Theresa M. Harris and her husband Patrick of Cornwall, NY and Jean C. Rakotz and her husband James of Croton-on-Hudson, NY; two sons: Thomas A. Smith and his wife Kathleen of Falls Church, VA and John M. Smith and his wife Katrina of Tappan, NY; seven grandsons: Thomas B. Smith, John D. Smith, Patrick Harris, Ryan Smith, Alex Rakotz, Ian Rakotz and Luke Smith; five granddaughters: Jacqueline Harris, Lauren Nadiq and her husband Drew, Anna Rakotz, Riley Smith and Claire Mary Smith; one great-grandson, Thomas B. Smith, Jr.; one brother: James Smith of Boston, MA and one sister, Helen Flynn of Jensen Beach, FL.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 AM on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at St. Edmond Catholic Church, 409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, where friends may call beginning at 10:00AM.

Friends may also call from 6 PM - 8 PM on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958, where a Prayer Service by the Knights of Columbus will begin at 5:45 PM.

Interment with Military Honors will be held at 11 AM on Friday, April 17, 2015 at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 26669 Patriots Way, Millsboro, DE 19966.

Memorial contributions may be made in Deacon John Smith's memory to the Delaware Veterans Home, 100 Delaware Veterans Blvd., Milford, DE 19963 or the Knights of Columbus Star of the Sea Council #7297, 409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.

Please sign Deacon John Smith's online guestbook at this site.

PDF Printable Version



## Events


**Deacon John A Smith**

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### Interment

 **Friday**, April 17, 2015

 11:00 AM ET

 **Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery**  
26669 Patriots Way, Millsboro DE





## Tribute Wall

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MS

**Mark And Fiona Sanders** posted:

We are very sorry for your loss. We have heard John speak about his father on several occasions and described him as a very honorable and respectful father with a deep love for his family. Please accept our condolences. We hope that your hearts will treasure the experiences and memories of his life. Mark and Fiona

April 25 at 8:00 PM

DS

**David Shevock LI** posted:

My hart goes out to the smith family he was a great decon . he will sadly miss

April 18 at 8:00 PM

TS

**Thomas Smith** posted:

Dad - We all love you and miss you. Enjoy eternity with our Father. Love always, Tommy, Riley, Claire Mary, Kathi and Thomas

April 16 at 8:00 PM

GH

**Gary Harden** posted:

God bless you John. Rest in peace.

April 16 at 8:00 PM

BB

**Brian Frank Sue And Travis Barnes** posted:

John: You were a great man and devoted knight and chaplain you will be missed serve the people in heaven as you did down here the knights will take over helping the people down here farewell brother Smith Farewell!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

April 15 at 8:00 PM

FF

**Francis & Marjorie Frampton** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Deacon John is now at peace.W

April 14 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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BM

**Betty And Don Mastracco** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours. Rest in eternal peace..

April 14 at 8:00 PM

PB

**Pat & Everett Beach** posted:

Carry on in your new environment!Semper FiPat & Everett

April 13 at 8:00 PM

SR

**Stephanie Rakotz & Michael Recchia** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

April 13 at 8:00 PM

DR

**Dennis Desilet, Cmsgt, Usaf-Retired** posted:

John was an amazing man. A proud Marine and true patriot, he and his wife, Ann proudly supported the men and women of Dover AFB for many years following 9-11. His booming voice and genuine concern for others inspired everyone he met. I will miss his encouragement, strength and constant support. I am a better father, husband and man for having known him. His legacy of love, service and humility will never be forgotten. Rest in peace my friend.

April 13 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Deacon by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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