



James Douglas Smith

DEC 27, 1935 - MAR 28, 2020



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James Douglas Smith

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James Douglas Smith, age 84 of Rehoboth Beach DE, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at Beebe Healthcare in Lewes, DE due to complications from the COVID-19 virus. He was born December 27, 1935 in Gainesville FL, son of the late S. Spalding and Eloise (Douglas) Smith.

Mr. Smith proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and continued his service in the U.S. federal civil service culminating in his retirement from the National Institute of Health as an Endowments Supervisory Program Manager. Travel, friendships, the arts, and Broadway shows were some of his passionate pastimes.

Mr. Smith is recently pre-deceased by his beloved spouse of 49 years, Ronald Blakely and sisters Eloise S. Haile and Isabel D. Latham. He is survived by his brother, Stephen S. Smith and his wife Colette; his aunt Monica Douglas and family; his nephews Graham and Evans Haile, Randy and Kevin Smith, John and Michael Latham; his nieces Beverly Haile Parrish, Carol Smith Nagel; and close family members David S. Ross and Cynthia C. Ross.

A Private Interment will be held at Epworth United Methodist cemetery Rehoboth Beach DE. Due to state and national health restrictions associated with COVID-19, the family will delay the formal memorial service until later in the summer when family along with Jim and Ron's friends can gather to celebrate their lives at Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE.

Please sign Mr. Smith's online guestbook located on this site. The website will be updated when services are scheduled.



Tribute Wall

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Priscilla Milstead posted:

Jim was one of my favorite fellow employee at the Cape May Lewes Ferry. Jim and I worked together for over 10+ years. He always had a smile. He had a funny sense of humor, making everyone laugh. Jim and I shared goods times together and I will miss him terribly. Rest in Peace my dear friend.

April 13 at 1:26 PM



Casey Lyn Cutler posted:

One of the nicest men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He brought a smile to my heart every morning he walked into the vault at work! His jokes were some of the best I've heard since my Papa has been alive and his hugs ranked up there as well!!What a tragic and terrible way to leave this world Mr. Jim. I wish you peace. I wish you abundance of happiness and love on the other side with Ronnie! You left an amazing impression on this big ball of dirt! I'm thankful for the years we've spent together and for the pleasure I've had in serving you and Mr. Ronnie out in the community. Your laugh will ring through my ears when The Universe knows I need it most! Blessed Be you sweet man! Unlit we meet again.....

April 2 at 10:19 PM



Bart Douglas posted:

Jimmy was a kind and beautiful person. He was always full of life and had a tremendous sense of humor. My fondest memories of him were when I was a child and he would come home at Christmas to see his Mother during leave from the Navy. He will be missed by our family. Rest In Peace Jimmy.

April 2 at 11:23 AM



Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared 3 photos to the **Interment Pictures** album.

April 2 at 9:35 AM



Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared 2 videos to the **Private Epworth Methodist Cemetery Interment** album.

March 31 at 11:51 AM





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RM

Ruth Moore posted:

I only knew Jim a few years, but he was a very sweet and kind man. Love to see his laugh. He was such a joy to work with. Will miss seeing his laugh and kindness he showed while working with him at the Ferry. RIP Jim.

April 2 at 3:18 AM

SS

Sue Seager posted:

Jim was such a sweet man, always had a smile on his face and always had a witty remark to make you laugh out loud! I only knew him about 5 years working at the Ferry, but he left a lifetime of good feelings and smiles to all who had the chance to know him. Rest in Peace Jim

April 1 at 9:21 AM

BP

Barbara Perrucci posted:

I will always remember your quick wit and the laughs we shared working at the ferry. We treasure your friendship and our many visits together. Rick especially enjoyed your visits to the liquor store. Now, you are reunited with Ron in spirit. Rest well, my friend. Barbara and Rick Perrucci

April 1 at 6:56 AM

SL

Steve Larson posted:

Jim your smile was infectious. Your sense of humor rivaled mine And I'll never forget the chaos we could cause at the ferry. I only knew you for a few years, but you had a tremendous impact on me and I will cherish the memories of the time we were able to share. Rest in peace my friend

March 31 at 4:18 PM

PM

Peggy Mitchell posted:

I loved working with Jim at the Ferry for many years. He always had a joke and a quick wit. He was someone we could count on and I am thankful he and His love are reunited. I will miss those preahift hugs, they were the best. You made a difference in my life and you made some very heavy days light. Rest In Peace

March 31 at 3:30 PM



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GH

Graham Haile posted:

My dear uncle Jimmy we will miss you so very much. Your kindness and fun personality. Just talked to you couple weeks ago , so glad. Rest with Ron in peace.

March 31 at 1:14 PM

PV

Phil Vehslage posted:

Ron and Jim were two of the kindest and gentlest men we have met. You both will be sorely missed. You are now reunited somewhere sharing your LOVE for each other that you showed on this earth for 50 years. Jim Mease and Phil Vehslage

March 31 at 12:39 PM

RS

Randall Deb Smith March 31 at 12:50 PM

Jim and Phil - Thanks for sharing your thoughts. We all will miss their banter and company. There is some comfort that both will be side-by-side with only a couple weeks separation in over 49 years.

GA

Gary posted:

We will miss Jim. He had a great sense of humor. We were neighbors for over 10 years in Rehoboth. We got together with Roy and Tom and Jim and Ron (1-2-4 Club) for cocktails and dinner at each others' house) once a month. After we moved to Palm Springs in 2011, Jim and Ron would always come out to Palm Springs 2 years in a row, and we would then go back and spend the 3rd Thanksgiving with them. I also worked with Jim at the Cape May Lewes Ferry. He loved his work and the employees and customers. That is where his sense of humor really shined, and he was loved by everyone at the Ferry. We will miss him tremendously. Gary Bowman and Mike Wells

March 31 at 12:26 PM

SL

Steve Larson March 31 at 3:38 PM

Jim I will never forget the good times at the ferry. One of my fondest memories will always be all of the chaos you and I could cause. Rest in peace My friend it's been a long few years for you recently now it's time to relax and enjoy

RS

Randall Deb Smith March 31 at 12:33 PM

Thanks for the kind thoughts and memories Gary & Mike - you can't think about Ron or Jim without a funny story coming to mind. Despite the recent loss of Ron, Jimmy was concentrating on getting every thing together but the seasonal flu opened him to COVID which mercifully went quickly.



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Monica Poole posted:

Beautiful person - always made me smile. Lots of love, Monica Douglas Poole and family.

March 31 at 11:51 AM



Bart Douglas April 2 at 11:06 AM

Jimmy was a kind and good man. Tremendous sense of humor! My fondest memories of him are from my childhood when he would come home at Christmas on leave from the Navy to see his Mother. As an adult I will always remember his kind nature and quick wit. Rest In Peace now Jimmy.



Randall Deb Smith March 31 at 12:34 PM

This picture was from dinner 2 weeks ago after Ron's services. The sideways look was accompanied by a funny remark. He never changed!



Media

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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared 3 photos to the **Interment Pictures** album.

April 2 at 9:35 AM



Picture



Picture 2



Picture 3



Media

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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared 2 videos to the **Private Epworth Methodist Cemetery Interment** album. April 2 at 7:42 AM



Service



Monica Poole April 2 at 10:57 AM

Beautiful Service. Thank you so much for hosting the video.



Graham And Jan Haile April 2 at 9:27 AM

What a great video to share with us at this time of isolation. So sad we could not be there for either funeral. Thank you.



Randall Deb Smith April 2 at 9:13 AM

Thank you very much for the lovely respects paid to our dearest Jimmy and the rapid upload of the graveside service. In these quarantine times, it's very difficult for his immediate family not being able to be present for him. Special thanks to Pastor Charlie Arnold for his remarks that captured our dear Jimmy to form. He did a wonderful job honoring Jim's life and we're grateful to him. The Smith family



Media

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Casket Loading



Memories only last if you share them

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



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