



James Douglas Smith

December 27, 1935 - March 28, 2020

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.

Comments



“ 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.

Priscilla Milstead - April 13, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ 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.....

Casey Lyn Cutler - April 03, 2020 at 02:19 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



David S. Ross - April 02, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ 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.

Bart Douglas - April 02, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Interment Pictures



Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium - April 02, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Private Epworth Methodist Cemetery Interment



Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium - April 02, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ 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.

Ruth Moore - April 02, 2020 at 07:18 AM



“ 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 <3

Sue Seager - April 01, 2020 at 01:21 PM



“ 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

Barbara Perrucci - April 01, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“ 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

Steve Larson - March 31, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ 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

Peggy Mitchell - March 31, 2020 at 07:30 PM



“ 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.

Graham Haile - March 31, 2020 at 05:14 PM



“ 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

Phil Vehslage - March 31, 2020 at 04:39 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.

Randall Deb - March 31, 2020 at 04:50 PM



“ 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

Gary - March 31, 2020 at 04:26 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.

Randall Deb - March 31, 2020 at 04:33 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

Steve Larson - March 31, 2020 at 07:38 PM



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

Monica poole - March 31, 2020 at 03:51 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!

Randall Deb - March 31, 2020 at 04:34 PM



“ 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.

Bart Douglas - April 02, 2020 at 03:06 PM