



Daniel Smith

December 6, 2022 - December 6, 2022

October 17, 1951 – December 4, 2022

Live quietly in the moment and see the beauty of all before you. The future will take care of itself.

- Paramahansa Yogananda

On the morning of Sunday, December 4, Daniel “Dan” L. Smith, 71, passed away on his property in Knox.

Dan was born on October 17, 1951 in South Bend, Indiana to Ben N. and Margaret M. Smith. He was raised on their family farm in Teegarden. In 1970, Dan graduated from John Glenn High School and soon joined the local Ironworkers Union No. 292. He was a man of simple joy and found it among his family, his spirituality, and the beauty and wonder of our natural world. He was an active member of the Self-Realization Fellowship, where he found a deep comfort and understanding in the ways of our world and beyond.

Dan had a profound peace about him, though surged through life with childlike energy. He found great joy in playing outside with his granddaughters. He saw the world as a deeply beautiful thing riddled with the faults of greed and power-hungriness. A common phrase was, “It’s not a perfect world.” However, to combat these injustices that he saw, he worked to live as sustainable and

full as possible. He was the kind of man to sing with the morning doves. He would listen to the needs of his land rather than study how best to keep his garden. He loved loudly and gave generously. Whether a grandchild needed to be pushed on the rope swing, or a son needed help in the yard, Dan was always there.

Among the precious content of his character, Dan was a man of hobbies. He cherished hiking and camping trips with his sons and brothers. If he did so alone, it was not long before he made some buddies. Using his ironworker's knowledge, he enjoyed crafting sculptures. He filled his cabin as well as the houses of those he loved with original pieces of furniture. His property filled up with homemade dirt-bike trails for himself, his sons, and friends to enjoy for decades.

He is survived by his sons, Daniel L. and Randall T. both of Plymouth, his granddaughters Sophia M. (Matt) VonBank of Noblesville, Kathryn E., and Olivia M. of Plymouth, and the mother of his children Kathy M. (Thomas) Manenti of Chesterfield, MO. Also surviving are his siblings: Linda (Jim) Rozelle of Fort Wayne, Mark (Jan) Smith of Plymouth, and Ben (Cheryl) Smith of Mishawaka.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father.

Dan will be cremated. The family plans to have a celebration of life in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation to these organizations be made: The Nature Conservancy, the Michigan Cycle Conservation Club, or the National Parks Conservation Association. Dan was a generous giver to these and other organizations like these and would have greatly appreciated it.

Tribute Wall

RL

“ While precarious conditions fell upon my dear friend and led him to a tragic ending, it will never shadow those vivid and bright memories of him when he was sharp as a razor, and incredible in so many way. He was a rare jewel to behold in his deeply caring and loving nature.

Roger G LaMunion - December 16, 2022 at 02:43 AM

AS

“ Hello Danny and Randy. My name is Adam Sandefur. I just want to let you know how sorry I am for your loss. I met your father years ago when I started deer hunting with my father next to your dad's property. He was always kind and I will always remember having good conversations on the driveway leading to his cabin when I would run into him on my hunts and visits out in the woods God bless your family and God bless Dan

Adam Sandefur - December 14, 2022 at 01:27 PM

LE

“ Amazing obituary for an amazing man! Our deepest sympathy to you, Danny & Randy. I know how much you love your dad. May all of the fun times and wonderful memories give you comfort.



Lisa & Dan Erdelyi - December 08, 2022 at 05:11 PM

TM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Smith family. Dan and I go way back to 1st grade and all the way through Teegarden, Tyner, and John Glenn. We had great times in sports and school, and i remember being envious when he got his 62 Chevy Impala. Rest in Peace dear friend! Tom McGee

Tom McGee - December 08, 2022 at 08:25 AM

GK

“ Sendng prayers to all the Smith family's Dan and I and our families had great times together I'm heartbroken to lose another great friend

Gail Kaser - December 07, 2022 at 07:50 PM

VC

“ We had lots of good memories with Dan, Herbie and I have been friends with Dan for over 40 years. Our kids grew up together at our parties and get togethers. He got us into hiking and backpacking, something we probably never would have done without his encouragement. Our trip out west was one of the best ever, hiking to the top of Yosemite Falls was amazing! Great forever friend and will be forever missed! ❤️ RIP Dan and we will see you on the other side!



Vicki "Red" and Herbie Clark - December 07, 2022 at 03:39 PM

RL

Great picture of you two

Roger G LaMunion - December 16, 2022 at 04:30 AM

SB

“ dan was the one old friend that understood the world similar to the way i due . i have been so lucky to have been a friend

Stephen Bottorff - December 07, 2022 at 01:36 PM

CP

I'm in shock. We had many great times together, and he was the kindness soul I know. May he hike forever with a smile in the wilderness of heaven.

Curt Perry - December 07, 2022 at 01:44 PM

SM

I will never forget Dan

Scott Matthews - December 07, 2022 at 03:23 PM

SM

Dan was a true man of the Earth

Scott Matthews - December 07, 2022 at 03:24 PM

RL

My oldest and best friend. We were born 54 days apart. I was so fortunate to have this deeply caring and honest person in my life. We kept in contact all through the years. He will always be a part of me.2

Roger LaMunion - December 07, 2022 at 08:30 PM

RL

oops we were born 4 days apart, not 54.

Roger LaMunion - December 07, 2022 at 08:32 PM

PM

How and where do I start? Dan and I were lifelong friends and “bros”. We were ironworkers out of South Bend Local 292 in the early years. We worked together on several jobs over his years as an ironworker before Dan moved on to other things. We had many fun times together working and relaxing. Dan was a great cousin and friend. Dan will always be remembered by everyone who knew him. Phil Matz

Phil Matz - December 08, 2022 at 03:24 PM