



## Andy Smith

June 12, 1951 - June 22, 2018

Traverse City, Michigan - We don't know if you felt it, but many of us did, especially those of us who knew her closely, but on Friday afternoon, June 22, 2018 a great soul departed our being. Those that felt it knew it as a shake, a pause, a tremble, the departing of one of a kind that can never be replaced. At 4:00 pm on that day, Andy Swanson Smith died next to her loving husband Tim and her loving youngest son Jerry after fighting a tough battle against cancer called G.I.S.T. (intestinal tumors) for more than two years. Through it all she was always brave, courageous and optimistic.

She was born Mary Ann Walter (later nick-named "Andy" Randy by her father) in Decatur, Indiana on June 12, 1951 and grew up most of her life in Gibson City, Illinois. Everyone in that town knew her as the young smiling and friendly life guard at the community pool, the sparky cheerleader at the high school games, the prom queen waving from the float, a member of almost every club or activity at school, and on, and on. Her energy never stopped as she had a magical way with those that knew her.

Cheerleading through life to a college degree, a career as an American Airlines Stewardess, and into marrying her best childhood friend Gus Swanson. Together they raised four children, Jim, Mary, John and Jerry and moved all over the country with Gus' work making life long friends wherever they lived. One of their moves brought them to Traverse City. Little did she know when they moved to Traverse City that she would never leave. After some time, because of life's circumstances she made some very hard decisions in her life leaving the marriage to Gus Swanson and marrying Tim Smith, joining their families, their hearts and their lives. Their marriage became one that few in the world have ever seen or felt.

For those who knew Andy, (later nick-named "Grandy" by her grandchildren) they saw a very beautiful woman on the outside but even a more beautiful woman on the inside. She expected very little, had very few demands and always gave more than expected. Her greatest pleasure was giving to others and lived by the plaque on her kitchen that said "Servitude is Love". Her favorite foods were a cheeseburger and butter, but not always in

that order. She loved the smell of fresh sheets dried from the clothes line, spending each day with Tim traveling together in their book business and ending each day with their 5 o'clock cocktail. "Grandy" will be missed beyond comprehension.

She is survived by her husband Timothy R. Smith, who more than loves her, and her adoring family: James Swanson and wife Bonnie Brummer of Ft. Collins, CO, Mary Swanson Choquette and her husband Andrew of St. Louis, MO., John Swanson and wife Tara of Ashville, N.C., Jerry Swanson and his new wife Ashley Thorington of Traverse City, Jeffrey C. Smith and wife Missy Smith also of Traverse City, Anne C. Smith of Seattle, WA and Alexander Smith living in Amsterdam, Netherlands. She wore eleven Gold bracelets for her grandchildren Avery Swanson, Charlie Swanson, Oliver Choquette, Emmett Choquette, Maisie Choquette, Penelope Swanson, Townes Swanson, Izzy Smith, Lucy Smith, Sadie Smith and Bernie Smith. All will be at the funeral. A brother Mike Walter and best friend and wife Dee Walter of Omaha, NE with all their children and grandchildren. A sister Pat Harper of Gibson City, ILL and her children and grandchildren. Andy had lots of nieces and nephews.

The family will greet friends on Friday, July 13, 2018 from 5 to 8 pm at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home on Sixth Street in Traverse City. A memorial service will be held the next day, Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 10:00 am at St. Joseph Catholic Church on the Peninsula with graveside services immediately following.

Those wishing an expression of sympathy are encouraged to direct a contribution to the Traverse City Public Library (a place she loved to be) or to Michigan Hospice (who gave us so much ending help).

To always remember Andy just plant a Shasta Daisy or a Peony (both her favorites) in Andy's honor and she will greet you each summer with a big smile.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery JUL**

12675 Center Road

Traverse City, MI, 49686

**13**

**Visitation 05:00PM - 08:00PM**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**JUL**

**14**

**Mass of Christian Burial**

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**10:00AM**

St. Joseph Catholic Church

12675 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

# Comments

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“ Brandy Abramczyk lit a candle in memory of Andy Smith



**Brandy Abramczyk** - July 10, 2018 at 10:18 PM

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“ I want to offer my sincere condolences to Andy's Family and many close Friends. I only knew her for 1 year when I was a Freshman and She a Senior at GCHS. I was on the Student Counsel and had joined some of the clubs She was on. Andy more or less took me under her wing and gave me much insight on how to enjoy my High School days and to someday be a mentor when I became an upperclassman. It doesn't surprise me a bit how she lived her life and the joy she gave many. God Rest Her Soul.....a wonderful Human being.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Lynn Friday  
Springfield IL

**Mr. Lynn Friday** - July 09, 2018 at 10:55 AM

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“ Jacqui Smith lit a candle in memory of Andy Smith



**Jacqui Smith** - July 09, 2018 at 06:09 AM

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“ Patti Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Andy Smith



**Patti Reynolds** - July 02, 2018 at 10:24 AM

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“ I remember meeting Andy...it was a play date she set up for Andrew and Jerry in Kindergarten. The boys disappeared and I stayed a bit longer to get to know her. She was so easy to talk to with her welcoming nature and beautiful smile. I left with the distinct feeling that I had known her all my life. Like she was another sister with the looks and personality of Doris Day. She has been that to me everyday since. The impact she has had on my life and my kids with her warmth, openness, accepting nature, and love of living life with a POSITIVE attitude is something impossible to measure, but is something I will be eternally grateful for. I am a better person because of her, there is a part of her in me, and I will do my best to reflect her. To all the Swanson-Smith family.....my heart breaks with yours and am so sorry that such grief has set up shop within. My prayer is that it be on a temporary basis only, and the love she spent her lite time giving away eventually overflows your heart and your spirit. Andy still walks this earth in and through each of you. Thankfully, I know we will meet again..but damn.. until that happens...everyday... I'm gonna really miss that girl!

**Margaret Drury** - June 27, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ Your love for Andy is obvious and your tribute to her and her family is beautiful. Thank you for sharing.

**Priscilla Payne** - June 28, 2018 at 09:42 AM