



Donald Smith

August 25, 1938 - October 7, 2018

Donald Clyde Smith, 80, of Traverse City passed away October 7, 2018 at Munson Medical Center with his family by his side.

Don was born on August 25, 1938 in Traverse City to the late Claude Smith and Crystal Allen. He was raised with his nine siblings and was a hard worker from a very young age.

In 1957 he enlisted in the United States Army. This proved to be one of the best decisions of his life as it was in Germany while he was deployed that he met the love of his life, the former Rita E. Korsitzke. After he was honorably discharged he was able to continue their love story and she moved to America. The two sweethearts married on August 1, 1959 and have shared 60 wonderful years together.

Don had an entrepreneurial spirit and was able to always provide for his family. He worked for Tru-fit trousers, Dickson Distributing Company, was the owner of Union Market with his brother Jim and Papa J's Pizza with his wife Rita. He then worked for Bata and retired in 2003.

Don will be remembered for his quick wit, caring nature and the way he adored his beloved wife Rita and his entire family. He was an avid outdoorsman, and was passionate about hunting and fishing throughout his life. To those who knew him, he was "The Great White Hunter". He knew all of the "good spots" and was very skilled when it came to hunting. He loved reading anything and everything he could get his hands on, and often joked with his family, "if I don't know it, it ain't worth knowing." Two tracking and Sunday Drives were also two of Don's favorite things to do. He had a sixth sense for finding morel mushrooms and loved going out in the woods with his family to hunt for these little treasures. Above all else, family was the most important thing to Don. He will be dearly missed.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings John, Robert, William, Richard, Gerald, Thelma and Lawrence.

Don is survived by his wife Rita; children Donald of Traverse City, Tonya (Tim) Slack of Troy, Brian of Traverse City and Troy of Traverse City; grandchildren Amber, Tarah (Keith), Nicole, Cora, Tia (Nathan), and McKenna; great grandchildren Mason, Kennedy and Arielle; and siblings Priscilla and James (Phyllis).

Don's life will be celebrated privately.

The family would like to extend their deep thanks and appreciation to the all of the nurses, and especially nurse Loree, and doctors at Munson who cared for Don and always treated them with such compassion and care.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Salvation Army.

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to share your memories with the family. The family is being cared for by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Reynolds Jonkhoff - October 12, 2018 at 10:42 AM



“ Written by Tonya Slack ~ 2018 ~

It's only goodbye for a little while, dad.

The house is quiet now, without the hum of your oxygen machine, the shuffle of your slippers on the floor, and the sound of your voice and laughter. Your passing leaves a gaping hole in our lives, and we already miss you more than words can say. But we are comforted knowing we will be together again one day, and you are no longer struggling to survive with Emphysema.

Thank you dad for giving the very best of who you are to our family and everyone you knew. You were all about people and people were drawn to you. To know you was to love you and you always put relationships above all else. Especially your relationship with your family. Family was everything to you, and you passed this on to us. Thank you, dad.

Thank you for showing me and my brothers that a man who grew up without a father could be the best husband and father anyone could ask for.

Thank you for instilling and modeling important character traits like honesty, integrity and respect. You always tried to do the right thing. You showed respect to everyone, deservedly or not. And anyone who knew you, knew that your word was as good as gold. If you said it, it was the truth. It wasn't until later in life, as I met people without these qualities, that I learned the true value of them. Thank you, dad.

Thank you for showing us the importance of hard work. In my entire life I only saw you miss one day of work. One. You taught us that when you sign up for something you do it to the best of your ability, even if you don't feel like it. And if you want something in life, you need to work for it.

Thank you for modeling undying love, dad. You showed us what true love and commitment looks like as you loved and protected our mother so beautifully for sixty years, until the very end. Even when you weren't feeling well, you still told our mother how beautiful she was and how much you loved her, every day, multiple times. You truly cherished our mother. You told me recently, "I'm an eighty year old man, and I have the most beautiful eighty year old bride, and that's all I need." This deep love is the greatest gift you could ever give to your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Along with a legacy of faith, you left the greatest legacy of love you could leave.

You were a God-fearing, selfless, and humble man who needed very little in life. You taught us that simple pleasures like two-tracking, Sunday drives, exploring in the woods, hunting and fishing, mushroom picking, playing games, reading, laughing, or swimming in a lake brought the greatest joy. We didn't have the finer things in life and we didn't need them. I'm so thankful for that.

Thank you, dad, for giving my brothers and I your best traits. Your quick wit, positivity, kindness, playfulness, compassionate heart, creativity, sense of wonder, free spirit,

and goodness. We are proud of who we are because of who you are.

You are a very special soul, and heaven is a better place now.

It's only goodbye for a little while, dad.

You would not want us to grieve, but to take care of our mom and to live. And that we will. Until we are together again.

We love and miss you, dad.

P.S. I'm wearing your pimp coat 🤪

Reynolds Jonkhoff - October 12, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ Smith family-my heart is so heavy for u all. 'Pops' was such a wonderful & funny man, my favorite line of his, that I still use today, "if only I would have been born rich instead of so damn good looking!" He will be missed.

Lisa



lisa g - October 12, 2018 at 07:34 AM



“ Thank you Lisa. Pops always loved you. We appreciate your thoughts.

Tonya - October 12, 2018 at 11:43 AM