



Ernest "Ernie" Smith

April 4, 1926 - September 8, 2020

Maple City resident Ernest H. (Ernie) Smith died on September 8, 2020. His final days at his beloved Glen Lake were spent surrounded by family and friends as he made his way home after a long illness. Ernie was a World War II veteran and a self-made man who overcame great challenges to create an amazing life and legacy. He was a serial entrepreneur starting his first business at age 11. He would sneak out of the house at night to serve as the late night dispatcher for the Downers Grove Taxi Service and return home for a few hours sleep before doing his paper route. He later founded a successful educational technology company, Aidex, installing language and electronic labs in high schools and colleges throughout the Midwest.

Even though he had to work hard to succeed, his greatest strength was his ability to connect with people in all areas of his life. He was so generous and caring of others, but he also liked to have fun. He had a sparkle in his eye that drew people to him. He will be missed.

Ernie will be lovingly remembered by his beloved wife of 44 years, Dana Kay Smith, and his children Michael (Sue), Jeffery (Christina), Barry (Lynn), Mary (Tom), Cindy (Joe), and Kristi (Denis). Grandpa Ernie will also be fondly remembered by his grandchildren Jesse (Christina), Ryan, Tracy, Tina, Chris (Cassie), Daniel (Kandice), Jacob (Barbara), Kate, Colleen, Alan (Stephanie), Michael (Olivia), Eileen (Mike), Peter, Jamie, and Gabe, as well as fourteen great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Ernie is preceded in death by his twin sister, Bette, his father, Harold Guy Smith, and his mother, Elizabeth Smith. In addition, his stepmother Elva Smith and step siblings Rachel, Evelyn and Donald.

There will be a Celebration of Life announced at a later time.

Donations in Ernie's honor may be made to <http://www.honorflightchicago.org> or <https://heartlandhospicefund.org/>.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your memories with the family.
Ernie and his family are being cared for by the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Comments



“ Earnie was a wonderful long time volunteer at the Empire Area Museum and will be missed by us all as we recall this wonderful man. May Peace be with him and his entire family. We will miss him.
Dave Taghon for the entire volunteer group.

David Taghon - September 14 at 12:41 PM



“ My Dad, Doug Hutchison, considered Ernie one of his best friends. The times we shared with his family are precious to me. He had wonderful children and I am blessed to have know them.
My Dad passed years ago and I am comforted to know he was on the other side waiting to greet his old friend. God bless to you all and many thanks for the pleasant memories. Twila Hutchison Nipper

Twila Hutchison Nipper - September 14 at 09:45 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael and Wendy Papa - September 14 at 01:42 AM



“ I will always remember Ernie because he was a great storyteller. This is one of my favorites. Ernie, along with friends, would grease the train rails so the train couldn't make it up the tracks. Ernie and his friends would watch and laugh together. As a boy from the Bronx, I loved this story.

Michael Papa - September 14 at 01:30 AM



“ I send my deepest condolences to Kay and the family. My Grandma and Grandpa (Bob and Pat Glendon) had a strong friendship with Ernie and Kay. I am happy to hear he was at Glen Lake surrounded by family. The cabin and lake were some of the best times of my childhood. Although it may have been some time since my Grandpa has seen Ernie, he will forever miss him. Rest In Peace

-Karen Scherzer (Glendon)

Karen Scherzer - September 13 at 09:29 PM