



## Owen A. Smith

April 20, 1929 - January 10, 2021

Owen Smith, 91 was called home to his Maker on January 10, 2021. Owen was born to the late Howard and Josephine Smith (Christianson) in Omena, Michigan on April 20, 1929 on one of the two long time standing family farms.

As an adventurous boy with a curious mind, and growing up during the great depression, Owen learned quickly to find the value in anything. He found new uses for ordinary things and this parlayed into a love for tools and mechanics. He is fondly remembered by those closest to him as someone who could fix anything.

Owen met the love of his life, Alberta, at a roller skating rink as a teenager. He was anything but shy, but the story that was regaled to their kids and grandkids over the years was that he was so frazzled by Alberta that he hid in the bathroom to avoid talking to her until he eventually worked up the courage to ask her to skate with him. Owen and Alberta shared a deep love for each other over the 70 plus years that they were together. They provided a shining example to those around them, not only of their love for each other but also of their love for God through their faithfulness.

Owen always kept busy tinkering with projects around the house but his grandkids always remember that he would drop everything when they showed up. They all share memories of him taking them to the airport to watch the airplanes and ride on the escalators or to the bank to see the safety deposit box vault. These simple things seared lasting memories in the minds of his grandchildren. As time progressed & Owen wasn't so physically able in his later years, he still found ways to bring joy and memories to his great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. It may have been a ride in a wheelbarrow, pushing them on a swing, pulling them in a trailer behind a tractor, playing the harmonica for them, or simply sitting them on his lap and quietly singing a song to them.

As a servant of God, Owen made it his life's mission to care for, nurture and give. He was patient and kind. One of his greatest desires and hopes would be to have all his family members know an individual relationship with the heavenly father, love him, serve him,

and one day be together with him in an eternity with God in heaven.

Owen is survived by wife Alberta Irene Smith (Quance), sister Ada Florida (Bob) Winnie (Smith) Alvin Smith. Children; Carolyn Fay (Roger) Rice (Smith), Richard Owen (Linda) Smith, Larry Gordon (Dawn) Smith. Grandchildren: Tanya (Ian) McClendon, Roger "Sonny" (Tonya) Rice, Vanja "Susie" (Frank) Simkins, Jennifer (Kevin) Ott, Heather (Josh) Tjader, Jason Smith, Jon (Chelsea) Smith, Sarah (Wes) Anderson, Melissa Smith, Nathan (Kathryn) Smith. Great Grandchildren: Ashley, Timothy, & Michael Montgomery, Korbin Rice, Frank, John, & Emily Simkins, Caden Ott, Aleya Falb, Joslin Tjader, Sven Tjader, Evie Smith. Great-great-grandchildren: Alizabeth Montgomery, AbbiGail Bottomly, Salena Montgomery.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Josephine Smith, brothers, Arnold Howard, Raymond Johnson, and Alvin Smith, and his grandson Daniel Ryan Smith.

Visitation will take place Friday January 15, 2020 from 4-7pm at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Due to current restrictions, we ask that all visitors wear a mask, be cognizant of social distancing and limit your visit time. A funeral service will take place Saturday January 16, 2020 also at the funeral home. Please visit [www.rjfh.tv](http://www.rjfh.tv) to tune in to the live webcast at 11:00am.

Those wishing to honor Owen may wish to consider contributions to the Grand Traverse Pavilions.

Owen and his family are being cared for by the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

# Cemetery

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## **Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens**

3575 Veterans Drive

Traverse City, MI, 49684

# Comments

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“ Video Tribute



**Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - January 15 at 03:13 PM



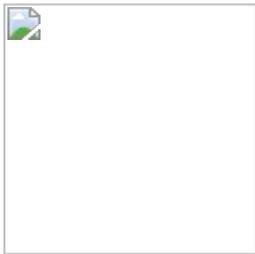
“ Owen was a fellow resident with my husband, Ken Harris, at the Pavilions. I didn't know him well, but he seemed like such a sweet man. I admired the devotion of his wife Alberta. I understand they had been married for 70 years. That's quite a love story. Rest in peace Owen. You are missed.

**Kathy Harris** - January 16 at 12:39 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service



**Reynolds Jonkhoff** - January 16 at 12:19 PM

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“ I always enjoyed talking and working with Owen when I was at Cone Drive. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.  
Brian Bush

**Brian Bush** - January 20 at 11:20 AM

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“ My family and I have lived across the alley from Owen and Alberta for over thirty years. Owen was a kind, friendly, wise and caring neighbor. I shall miss our chats and catching up when we would see each other in our yards. He is at peace with his maker, and I know he is sharing life stories with everyone in heaven. Condolences to Alberta and family.

Patrick and Pennie OBrien

Patrick and Pennie OBrien - January 13 at 06:10 PM

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“ Owen was one of my Dad's favorite customers at Bill Tibbitts barbershop. He always had a smile and a story to share with my dad. Dad liked him so much he brought him home one day to meet my mom and show her some of his wares as a Fuller Brush man. He quickly became moms favorite salesman and she enjoyed some of his products.

I met Owen much later in his life when I noticed he was wearing a Traverse City sweatshirt at Fiesta Grove RV park in Florida. We quickly realized her knew my Dad and we shared many good times talking about the old days in Traverse. He was such a kind and gentle man, everyone loved him we miss hm greatly here in Florida

Al and Sandy Davis

Sandra Davis - January 13 at 04:55 PM

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“ Owen was always a bright spot at Fiesta Grove. He was always willing to help load and unload the bikes on the bike trailer whenever we would take a bike trip. Dave always appreciated his help

JoAnn Cherry

joAnn Cherry - January 13 at 12:43 PM

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“ When we moved into our house back when we first moved to northern Michigan. We didn't have a bed to sleep in we were sleeping on our couches. Owen and Alberta gave us a bed awesome people have always treated me like family. Not many men like him in this world anymore. RIP Owen

Jennifer Oberlin - January 12 at 12:45 PM

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“ Owen you will be missed by all of us that loved you. You were a kind, loving , gentle soul. You and my dad were friends from youth, he truly valued your friendship. Your family and friends were blessed to have you in your life. Rest In Peace

**Nancy Clarke** - January 12 at 10:48 AM

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“ Grandpa Owen was a wonderful Man who loved God and his family. He will always be remembered for his energetic, kind, loving passion for life and those he encountered. His adventures with grandchildren to parks , airport, bike rides will be great memories to hold onto. Forever loved and missed

**Vanja (Susie) Rice-Simkins** - January 12 at 07:32 AM