



Brian Benjamin Smith

March 14, 1944 - November 27, 2024

Brian Benjamin Smith, age 80, died unexpectedly at his home on Sugar Island in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on November 27, 2024. He was born on March 14, 1944, in East Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Benjamin F. and Marion (Hagens) Smith.

Brian grew up in Grand Rapids, graduated from Ottawa Hills High School, and attended Grand Rapids Junior College. After his honorable discharge with the United States Army Reserve and several early careers, Brian excelled as the manager of the telephone systems department at Blodgett Memorial Hospital and later at Spectrum Health, both in Grand Rapids. In adulthood, Brian lived mostly on the water, including the Thorn Apple River, and on the St. Mary's River. He spent many family vacations in the Florida Keys. Brian was passionate all his life about boats, having had several small boats and a sailboat.

Brian was active with the Sugar Island Lions Club and with many charitable causes in Sault Ste. Marie.

Brian is survived by his sister, Diana (Udo) Reif; nephews, Bradley J. Bonfiglio of Rockwall, Texas, and Mark B. Bonfiglio of St. Petersburg, Florida; his beloved cat, Mr. Black; and many wonderful friends in Sault Ste. Marie.

Brian was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Marion.

Per Brian's wishes, there will be no services.

Donations may be made, if desired, to the Best of Friends Humane Society, 149 E. 7 Mile Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.
Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ So sorry to hear this. He was the first friend I had when moving to GR in 1953. We were neighbors and good buddies for about five years, drifted apart in high school and lost all contact with him. A great guy, very talented in many areas, and will surely be missed. Sincerest condolences to Diana and the rest of the family. Today, 2/13/2025, is the first I heard about this

Timothy Mask - February 13, 2025 at 02:25 PM

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“ So I miss Brian because he was so gifted, so special and in need of help. I wish I was there the last time I saw him, when he needed help, but I wasn't.

Eric Olsen - January 01, 2025 at 01:47 PM

DP

“ I started working for the Dirt Works motorcycle shop back in the 70s and Brian was a real mentor to me. His building bike stands and later the linkage kit for long travel was a school for me and started a lifelong interest in motorcycles and machine repair. Grand Rapids used to have a raft race on the Grand River and had quite a party scene at Riverside Park. I remember Brian's report- "The bra has definitely been banned". I lost track of him after that and am glad he enjoyed his life on the water. RIP.

Dan Pagel - December 07, 2024 at 09:28 AM