



Dennis Brian Smith

August 31, 1966 - April 10, 2022

Dennis Brain Smith of St. Ignace, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly at his home on April 10, 2022, at the age of 55. He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on August 31, 1966, to Norman and Nancy (Gustafson) Smith.

Dennis grew up in Portage, Michigan, with his parents, sister Denise, and his twin brother David. He attended Portage Central High School and graduated in 1984. He went on to attend Western Michigan University, earning a dual bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and Philosophy, before going on to obtain his Master of Architecture degree from the University of Michigan. He did some studying abroad which gave him the opportunity to visit parts of Europe and Prague in the Czech Republic.

Dennis met and fell in love with Anne Yaroch while in college and they married in 1995. They resided in Ann Arbor and welcomed the birth of the love of their lives, Theo, in 2002. Even though they were separated at the time of Dennis's death, they remained connected to co-parent Theo.

After graduating, Dennis worked for an architecture firm for a short time before finding a passion for technology and becoming a web developer. It was a field that allowed Dennis to follow his artistic passions. He moved to St. Ignace with his son, Theodore, in early 2017 to be closer to his family and enjoy life in the Upper Peninsula.

Dennis was a very artistic individual and had a knack for graphic design. He designed and ran his own website, Lead Holders, where he was able to connect with people all over the globe that collected architectural drafting pencils. As a result of the connections he made through his website, he participated in the Variety Bash road rally in Australia. He had an extensive collection that he was proud of and had even been interviewed by Architect Magazine. He was also a Rock Hound and would walk the beaches of Michigan hunting for rocks and fossils. Dennis was a very unique and driven individual. While his time was too short, he lived a rich life and will be greatly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Dennis is survived by his son, Theodore Smith of Kalamazoo, wife, Ann Yaroch of Kalamazoo, parents, Norman Lowell Smith and Nancy Jane (Gustafson) Smith of St. Ignace; brother, David (Dawn) Smith of Portage, Michigan; niece, Miette Smith and nephew, Quinlan Smith, and many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Dennis is preceded in death by his sister, Denise Smith.

The Memorial Service will be Saturday, May 7, at 11AM at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Mackinaw City, Michigan, with Sister Chris Herald officiating.

You are invited to join Dennis's immediate family in the Parish Life Center for a luncheon immediately following the service.

Please stay and continue to share your memories of Dennis with each other.

A private graveside service will be held later in Brevort Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Dennis' memory may be left to the family to aide with funeral expenses.

Galer Funeral Homes & Cremation, of Pickford, Michigan, is assisting with arrangements for the Dennis Smith family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Eastern Upper Peninsula Crematory

24549 S M-129
Pickford, MI 49774

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony Catholic Church
600 W Central Ave
Mackinaw City, MI 49701

Tribute Wall



“ *He was such a good, kind man, and fabulous father! He is much missed by those who loved him! My only saving grace is he passed peacefully in his sleep of a massive heart attack. His memory lives on! ❤️*

Ann Yaroch - September 24, 2025 at 07:18 PM



“ *Dennis Brian Smith*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Dennis Brian Smith*

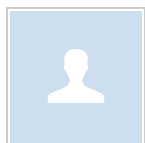
October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Promise Ziegler - November 13, 2022 at 10:02 PM



“ *Dennis Brian Smith*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM

BF

“ Rest in Piece Dennis! You will be missed.

Bill Farquhar - April 17, 2022 at 05:44 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Smith - April 16, 2022 at 11:07 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Smith - April 16, 2022 at 09:32 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Smith - April 16, 2022 at 09:27 AM

DS

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David Smith - April 16, 2022 at 09:26 AM

KW

“ *Kim Wartella lit a candle in memory of Dennis Brian Smith*



kim wartella - April 12, 2022 at 09:52 PM

KW

I so grateful that i got to spend time with Dennis, our walk over to the Island and lunch at the VI three years ago was so much fun!

kim wartella - April 12, 2022 at 09:55 PM

DS

The week prior to Dennis's death he was visiting in Kalamazoo and we had a lovely conversation that he thanked me for and he told me how proud he was of my accomplishments. I am so very grateful for those moments and so many countless others. He was my friend, brother-in-law, and uncle to my children. A huge hole is left by his parting. I am comforted by the fact that he left this earth with hope for the future and contentment.

Dawn Smith

Dawn Smith - April 14, 2022 at 02:34 PM

PM

I was Dennis's God Mother so he was always special to me. He was very gentle and kind, hard working, excellent cook, a very good father to Theo. The first picture that David posted brought back so many memories.

Phyllis Massey - April 16, 2022 at 02:30 PM

PM

I wasn't finished with my memories Phyllis Massey

Phyllis Massey - April 16, 2022 at 02:32 PM

AM

Dennis's passion for his leadholder collection and website drew me and many others from around the globe to him. We became close buddies in frequent contact with Dennis eventually flying to Australia and joining me, his larrikin Aussie mate, in a Variety Club charity motoring rally. It was a wonderful experience for both of us.

He had a wicked sense of humour and his great wit was often shared in his leadholder blog online.

We shared so many of life's experiences even though we were 17,000 kilometres apart. It was such a privilege to know Dennis and I'll miss him dearly.

Allan Macdonald - April 17, 2022 at 11:23 AM

DS

The Memorial Service details should be posted on the main page soon, but in the mean-time:

Memorial Service

Saturday, May 7, at 11 a.m.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Mackinaw City, Michigan

Officiating

Sister Chris Herald

Place of Burial

Brevort Cemetery

Brevort, Michigan

Luncheon:

You are invited to join Dennis's immediate family in the Parish Life Center for a luncheon immediately following the service. Please stay and continue to share your memories of Denise with each other.

Burial:

A private graveside service will be held later in the afternoon in Brevort.

David Smith - April 25, 2022 at 09:22 AM