



## Frederick James Smith

August 31, 1952 - January 6, 2018

Frederick James Smith, age 65, of Rudyard, Michigan passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan after a short battle with an aggressive cancer. He was born on August 31, 1952 to Milbun “Bud” and Dorothy (Tremblay) Smith in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Fred lived in Rudyard his entire life and graduated from Rudyard Area Schools in 1970. He married Sandra Ann Savoie on January 15, 1972. The couple had three children, Juanita (Dennis) Steikar, Juanette (Tate) Hakola and James (Marcy) Smith. His children remember him as a hard-working man who led by example and his advice and wisdom were always valued.

Fred started working for the Rudyard Area Schools at the age of 19 until he started working for the Michigan Department of Corrections. For years, Fred worked more than one job. He moved houses for his father in law, Paul Savoie. He started a bottled gas delivery business while also taking over Smith Sanitation. He retired from the Department of Corrections in 2002 with 30 years of state service.

Fred lived his life like no other and loved his friends, but was always there for his family. Fred enjoyed hunting and especially his hunting camp, where family and friends would gather to hear his stories. He enjoyed doing odd jobs, especially for family, using his Kubota tractor.

After retirement, Fred and Sandy enjoyed traveling south in the winter months pulling their fifth wheel camper. They traveled much of the country in that time.

The past several years they have been wintering at home so Fred could attend his grandchildren's many sporting events, tell them stories, and just to spend more time with his family.

He always loved his vehicles, especially in the later years, when he started a classic car garage he named "Freddy's Fenders". Fred collected cars ranging from a 1935 Chevy, which was his grandfathers, to his 1983 Zimmer. The pride of his collection was his 1970 GTO. He really enjoyed participating in many classic car shows. Fred would recruit his children and grandchildren to help him drive all of the cars to the shows or to just ride along with him.

Fred is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughters, Juanita (Dennis) Steikar, Juanette (Tate) Hakola; son, James (Marcy) Smith all of Rudyard, Michigan; eight grandchildren Lukas, Brendan, Jakob, and Drew Steikar, Korissa and Presley Hakola, and Wade and Saryna Smith. He is also survived by his mother, Dororthy Smith; sister, Hazel (Roger) Metts of Alabama; brothers, Roy (Carol) Smith of Belding, Michigan, Robert Smith of South Dakota, and Paul(Brenda) Smith of Kincheloe, Michigan.

Fred was preceded in death by his father, Milbun "Bud" Smith; and brother, Al Smith.

There are no words to express how much Fred will be missed by his family and friends.

Memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Michigan. Funeral Services will follow at 3:00 P.M.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of Fred to the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to whom the family would like to thank for the excellent care given to Fred in his last few days.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 13. 3:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford  
24549 S. M-129  
Pickford, MI 49774  
(906) 647-3400  
flfh@familylifefh.com  
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

## Gathering Time

JAN 13. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford  
24549 S. M-129  
Pickford, MI 49774  
(906) 647-3400  
flfh@familylifefh.com  
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Frederick James Smith*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Frederick James Smith*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Frederick James Smith*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *I'm reaching out from the past. My name is Tom Losiewski and I lived in Rudyard from 62 to 67. Fred was a good friend of mine both in Elementary and High school. I used to hang around with Fred, Mitch Irwin and some of the English boys. I also had Jeff Benny and Jimmy Benny as friends. Fred and I used to do a lot of fun things together as young kids. I moved away from Rudyard in 1967 and have lived in the Kalamazoo Michigan area ever since. I have a lot of fond memories of Fred and we had lots of laughs together. He will be missed by many. He was always a fun person to be with and it sounds like Fred turned into a great adult who was loved and respected by many. My prayers and sympathy go out to your family and may God bless you.*

Thomas Losiewski - January 18, 2018 at 11:37 AM

JR

“ Jim and I send our deepest sympathy to Juanita and the Fred Smith family. We are so sorry for your loss and we are thinking of you at this most difficult time.

*Jim and Rose Riggle*

Jim and Rose Riggle - January 15, 2018 at 10:20 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frederick James Smith.



January 13, 2018 at 10:58 AM

TD

“ I had the pleasure to be a neighbor of Fred and his wonderful family for 30 years. He always had a smile, always available for help and always entertaining as Fred could be. He came to my assistance so so many times, most times without asking. He was the best neighbor you could ask for, but more than that he was a good friend.

*The DeWeese family*

Todd DeWeese - January 12, 2018 at 03:44 PM

RS

“ Republic Services purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Frederick James Smith.



Republic Services - January 12, 2018 at 01:13 PM

GS

“ Our condolences for your loss. Not only did we both work with Fred, but also Juanette and Jim, and Juanita has cut my hair for years. Fred always seemed to have a smile on his face. It is sad that he left at such a relatively young age.

*Gerry & Sally Smith*

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**Gerry & Sally Smith** - January 11, 2018 at 11:24 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frederick James Smith.



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January 10, 2018 at 07:54 PM

SS

“ I haven't know Fred long, but really enjoyed the chats we had at the car shows. I'm glad I had the opportunity to meet him and glad he shared his cars with our club,  
*Sindy Shariff secretary  
Twin Saults Car Cruisers Car Club*

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**Sindy Shariff** - January 10, 2018 at 07:13 PM

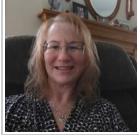
AG

“ Adam and Abi, Averie, Ainsley and Archie Graves purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Frederick James Smith.



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**Adam and Abi, Averie, Ainsley and Archie Graves** - January 10, 2018 at 06:26 PM



“ *My condolences to your family. I had the privilege of getting to know Fred through his many trips to the WMH Radiology Dept with the DOC...he always had a smile on his face, joke or story to share, and was a joy to be around! Fred was quite a character, and will surely be missed by all who knew him!*  
*Michelle Martinchek-Young*

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**Michelle Young** - January 10, 2018 at 04:35 PM



“ *Scott and I are very sadden to hear this news. We have several great memories of our time with Fred. We are thinking of all of you during the tough time in your lives.*



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**Theresa Tremblay** - January 10, 2018 at 02:35 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Frederick James Smith.*



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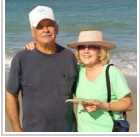
January 10, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ *Jim, I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Our prayers are with you and your family! Jim Whittinghill.*

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**Jim Whittinghill** - January 10, 2018 at 01:20 PM



“ *Sending our deepest sympathy and prayers to Fred's family. We are very saddened by his passing. Hold on to the love and wonderful memories you had with him. Know he will be deeply missed.*

*God bless,  
Frank and Carol LaMantia*

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**Carol LaMantia** - January 10, 2018 at 01:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frederick James Smith.*



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January 10, 2018 at 12:16 PM



“ *Family of Fred, I know words don't mean a whole lot right now, but you all have been in my thoughts and prayers since I heard of Fred's passing. The days ahead won't be easy, but hold tight to the memories you have of times together, and keep your love for him safely tucked into your hearts. Be strong and know that others share your grief at this difficult time. I have some fun loving memories of Fred and hope you and yours know he will be missed! Love, hugs and prayers to you and yours from me and mine!*

*Baamaapii Fred Baamaapii!*

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**Jamie Harvey (McCoy)** - January 10, 2018 at 08:24 AM

MG

“ *Condolences to you and your family, Sandy. I loved his humor, but the best thing I remember about Fred was knowing if I needed help at work, he would have my back.*

*There was a lot more to him than that "devil may care" exterior, but you and your family know that better than anyone. Treasure the good memories.*

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**Meta Geyer** - January 09, 2018 at 09:35 PM

PS

“ *Bill Bell and I are so sad to just hear about the passing of Fred. He could be such funny man. We really seen another side of Fred when we were with him and Sandy for a week in Texas with Walt and Jean Scheiman. Which was more laid back. Lots of laugh with this man many times in the area bars. So sorry to hear this Sandy. Hugs and prayers to you all. God Bless Heaven is in for a real treat. Thinking of all, Pam Sprague*

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**Pamela sprague** - January 09, 2018 at 06:50 PM

SA

“ *Superior Insurance Agency purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Frederick James Smith.*



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**Superior Insurance Agency** - January 09, 2018 at 01:49 PM

TF

“ *The Shepards, Jack, Thora, Mike, Helena and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Frederick James Smith.*



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**The Shepards, Jack, Thora, Mike, Helena and Family** -  
January 09, 2018 at 12:09 PM

BO

“ *So sorry to hear about uncle freds passing. My condolences to Sandy and cousins. My prayers and thoughts are with you.*



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**Becky ouellette** - January 09, 2018 at 01:22 AM

VL

“ *We are feeling so sad to read this obituary! Haven't seen Fred in awhile but always enjoyed the get togethers at the Williams. He was a funny guy who you could tell loved people! You are all in our prayers at this sad time! In sympathy Tom & Val Lawlor*

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**Val Lawlor** - January 08, 2018 at 11:10 PM

PO

“ It is with deepest sympathy for Fred's family to lose such a great man. I met Fred back in the 70's at work. He always had a huge smile on his face. He was the biggest jokester and loved to tease and make everyone laugh. Fred was a very kind man - he would do whatever he could if someone needed help or just needed to talk/conversation. I know he loved his family and grandchildren with all his heart. My deepest sympathy goes to Sandy and his children and grandchildren. He will definitely be missed by many. I imagine Freddy smiling down upon all of us telling his stories to those who will listen. Rest in Peace Fred. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.

*Patti Osterhout*

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**Patti Osterhout** - January 08, 2018 at 09:24 PM

DK

“ We are so saddened to hear of Fred's passing and extend our deepest sympathy to Sandy and the whole big family Fred so loved somdeeply, and share stories about.  
Fred has been not only a long time friend but he and Sandy we two of the kindest and welcoming people when we first moved to Rudyard ages ago.  
Fred would help anyone in need and always was quick with a smile and a joke when one was most needed. He had a quick wit and a good joke was always close at hand.  
I am sure he will be deeply missed in our community.  
Please know his legacy will grow and carry on through his beautiful children and those grandchildren he held so dear to his heart.  
Our deepest sympathy,  
Al and Dulcey Kantola

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**Dulcey Kantola** - January 08, 2018 at 08:35 PM

MA

“ Rest in peace Fred. Always had a smile on his face and always said hello. Good family man that provided well for his family. Glad to have known him

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**Mike Alley** - January 08, 2018 at 08:33 PM

JF

“ Our hearts are with you ALL, Fred was a great guy, funny, life-of-the party, smart-ass remarks, joker, story teller, kind, gentle, loved his FAMILY, was always willing to help anyone in need!! Just a very kind-hearted person & always looked at the bright side of life—didn't everyone just Love Fred? Fred knew he was loved 😊 We are deeply grateful to have known him and have worked with him!!! RIP our friend....to the Smith family—May you find sunshine thru the dark clouds, may your memories & LOVE hold your selves together, may laughter & LOVE fill your souls with the precious life time you had. IF you had to do it all over again what would/could you change, you couldn't LOVE anymore than you already have? Peace and Love be with you ALL!!! GOD bless you!

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**Julie Green & Mike Fegan** - January 08, 2018 at 08:19 PM

MR

“ To the Family of Fred Smith,  
I got to know Fred when my wife Marcia and I lived in Rudyard. I was teaching and coaching at the high school at the time. We were very good friends with Fred's uncle And Aunt, Louie and Karen Tremblay. Louie, Fred, and I did a lot of hunting at Camp Swamp in a Hole, cutting wood and snowmobiling. We had great times and good laughs during those years. Marcia and I were saddened to hear of Fred's passing. We give our deepest and sincere condolence to Fred's family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.  
Mike and Marcia Ruhanen

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**Mike Ruhanen** - January 08, 2018 at 08:04 PM