



Irene "Renie" M. Smart

February 19, 1947 - March 16, 2025

Irene M. "Renie" Smart, age 78, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away on March 16, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House, surrounded by her family. She died on what would have been her 57th wedding anniversary, to her high school sweetheart, Larry Smart. She was born on February 19, 1947, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Clyde and Dorothy (Weir) Johnston.

Renie was a lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie and a graduate of Sault High School, Class of 1965. She married Larry Smart on March 16, 1968, in Sault Ste. Marie, where they began raising their family. She worked at the Sault Ste. Marie Schools, until her retirement. Renie enjoyed traveling with Larry and wintered in Florida for several years.

Renie was an active member of The First Church of Christ where she formed many cherished friendships. Her passions included tending to her flower gardens, taking walks, sewing, baking sourdough bread and camping. Renie particularly adored her grandchildren and took great joy in attending their sporting events, dance recitals and school activities.

Renie is survived by her daughter, Laurie (Jeff) Gierke; son, Daniel (Mary) Smart; grandchildren, Rachael Smart (Damian McLeod), Jack Gierke, Annika Gierke, Emily (Connor) Johnson, Amy Smart; great-grandchildren, Dalton and Lyric McLeod, Weston and Layne Johnson.

Renie was preceded in death by her husband, Larry; parents, Clyde and Dorothy; brother, William (Marjorie) Johnston; mother and father-in-law, Don and Fay Smart; and her dog Ryder.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff and volunteers at the Ball Hospice House for their compassionate care. A special thank you to Jim and Kathleen Pattison for being such wonderful neighbors, as well as to all who called, texted, sent cards, or stopped by to offer their support during this difficult time.

A Visitation will be on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon, with the Funeral Service immediately following at the First Church of Christ, 300 W. Spruce St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI with Randy Peasley officiating.

Renie's final resting place will be Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers the family kindly request that donations be made to the Ball Hospice House, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (hospiceoftheeup.com).

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

Obituary as submitted by family.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

15264 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
300 Spruce St. W.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Funeral Service

MAR 22. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
300 Spruce St. W.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall

NC

“ Nick and Corina purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Irene "Renie" M. Smart.



Nick and Corina - March 21, 2025 at 01:58 PM

RH

“ We are so sad to hear of Renie's passing. She was a ray of sunshine for all who knew her! May God hold you close and give you comfort as you mourn her passing.

Ron and Sherry Hutchins - March 19, 2025 at 09:43 PM

LC

“ Sorry for your loss, your Mom was such a nice person with the sweetest smile. ☐

Lucy Carrick - March 19, 2025 at 09:27 PM

LU

“ We loved Renie for her joy in life as a witness of God's blessings. She was my spiritual partner. Her trust in God and His plan of sending his son, Jesus as our way to heaven was truly inspirational. I will greatly miss our phone calls where we shared both our biological and church families' joys and trials as well as our love of God and his constant presence in our daily lives. She is missed already.

Lowell and Gail Ulrich - March 19, 2025 at 05:00 PM

MP

“ *Renie was a Beautiful classmate ...inside and out. May her sweetness go forward in her family.*

Marilyn Plitz - March 19, 2025 at 09:47 AM

JM

“ *I worked with Renie for two years many years ago at the high school. She was a beautiful lady that always had a smile and a wonderful sense of humor. I will mourn her loss but celebrate that I knew her and called her my friend. Prayers to you and your family.*

Judy McGahey - March 18, 2025 at 09:02 PM

KB

Renie, and Larry were my mom and dad's neighbors for many years. My mom and Renie shared flowers and "planting secrets" they both had the most beautiful gardens. Renie also worked at Soo High with my mom. I'll always remember her beautiful smile and kindness. All my prayers to her family. Rest peacefully Renie.

Kim Beckham - March 19, 2025 at 08:31 AM

DF

“ *Dave, Teresa, and family purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Irene "Renie" M. Smart.*



Dave, Teresa, and family - March 18, 2025 at 07:29 PM

BJ

“ *A great visit to us during a spring break.* 💕💕



Bob and Karen Johnston - March 18, 2025 at 05:44 PM

JG

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jeff Gierke - March 18, 2025 at 05:34 PM