



Norman Lowell Smith

May 6, 1934 - August 10, 2022

Norman Lowell Smith, age 88, of St. Ignace, Michigan, died at Mackinac Straits Health System in St. Ignace on August 10, 2022. He was born in St. Ignace on May 6, 1934, to Cecil Eugene and Anna Elinor (Trerice) Smith.

Norman grew up in the Gros Cap area and graduated from LaSalle High School in 1953. Post-graduation he moved to Florida and worked in the building trades with his brother-in-law, Harold Berson. He moved back to Eastern Upper Peninsula and spent a season sailing the Great Lakes aboard a freighter before he volunteered for the draft and entered the U.S. Army. After he completed his term in the army, he went on to work for the Michigan Department of Transportation and was able to travel around the Lower Peninsula.

In the early 60's he met and fell in love with Nancy Gustafson, who he married on October 6, 1962, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Moran, Michigan. They moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan and then later made Portage, Michigan their home of 30 years. They raised their daughter and twin sons in a neighborhood full of friends and good times. Norman was a hands-on father and passed on his skills of carpentry and creativity to his children.

Norman loved being an active member of every community he lived in and it was important to volunteer and give back. While in Kalamazoo he was an

usher for St. Catherine of Siena Church, and he was part of the American Legion #62 of St. Ignace as the Financial Officer for over twenty years.

Norman loved deer hunting; he would go to West Branch, Michigan, to hunt with his friends every season and tried to bag a "big one". He also loved playing games on his computer, golfing, and woodworking. One of his favorite pass times was tinkering in his garage and he would get caught-up for hours listening to "the game" there. Another activity that he enjoyed was supporting the St. Ignace Saints High School Basketball teams; He attended many games and was the ultimate fan.

After Norman retired from MDOT in 1995 as the Supervisor of the Department of Materials and Inspection, he moved back to St. Ignace with Nancy in 1998 to be closer to family. He enjoyed adding onto his house, building outbuildings and visiting with friends and family. He adored his three grandchildren and loved spending time with them when they came to visit. As a grandfather he was willing to make fun of himself to bring a smile to his grandchildren's faces.

Norman is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Nancy Smith; son, David (Dawn) Smith of Portage; daughter-in-law, Ann Yaroch of Kalamazoo, MI; grandchildren, Theodore Smith, Miette Smith, and Quinlan Smith; brother, Vernon (Pat) Smith of St. John's, MI, sisters-in-law, Rosalie Smith of Florence WI, Bonnie Smith of Ithaca, MI, Deanna Sigvaldson of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Phyllis (Ed) Massey, Beatrice (John) Zak St. Ignace; brother-in-law, Richard Gustafson of Brevort, MI; and many nieces and nephews.

Norman was preceded in death by his son, Dennis Brian Smith; daughter, Denise Lynne Smith; parents, Anna and Cecil Smith, brothers, Marvin, Clifford, Elvin, Clayton, Kent, Howard, Arden, Lee; sisters, Dorothy Berson and Marion Fenlon; mother & father-in-law; Ethelyn and Theodore Gustafson.

A Memorial Service will be held on October 22, 2022, at the St. Ignatius Loyola Church in St. Ignace, Michigan. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM with the service starting at 11:00 AM. Father Frank Ricca will be officiating. There will be a luncheon at 12:00 PM: You are invited to join Norm's immediate family in the Parish Hall for a luncheon immediately following the service. Please stay and continue to share your memories of Norm with each other.

Burial will take place at 2:00 PM will be at Western Cemetery in Brevort, Michigan, where a graveside service including American Legion Honors will be held.

Galer Funeral Homes & Cremation in Pickford, Michigan, is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Western Cemetery

Brevort, MI

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

OCT **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church
120 Church Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Memorial Service

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St. Ignace, MI 49781

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Tribute Wall



“ *Norm was the absolute best father-in-law anyone could ever wish for! He was funny, smart, kind, and loving! He was also a beloved grandfather!* ”

Ann Yaroch - September 24, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ *Norman Lowell Smith* ”

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Norman Lowell Smith* ”

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *We were so very sorry to hear about Norm's passing in August! Nancy and I attended business school in 1960, and she and Norm have been friends all these years even though we didn't see each other often. Our very sincere condolences to Nancy and the family.* ”

Chuck and Lila Cripps - October 03, 2022 at 02:40 PM



“ *We were so very sorry to hear about Norm's passing in August! Nancy and I attended business school in 1960, and she and Norm have been friends all these years even though we didn't see each other often. Our very sincere condolences to Nancy and the family.* ”

Chuck and Lila Cripps - October 03, 2022 at 02:39 PM



“ Norman Lowell Smith

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ Typical parental shenanigans from back in the day ❤️



marni berghuis - August 20, 2022 at 01:12 PM



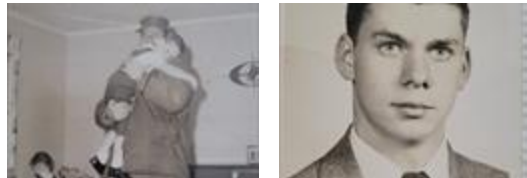
“ 3 files added to the album Normie



David Smith - August 17, 2022 at 10:51 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Kim Wartella - August 17, 2022 at 09:29 AM

KW

RIP Uncle Norm you will always be remembered by me as a soft spoken man with a sweet smile and a I always loved how you would chuckle at jokes. Until we meet again....

Kim Wartella - August 17, 2022 at 09:33 AM

DA

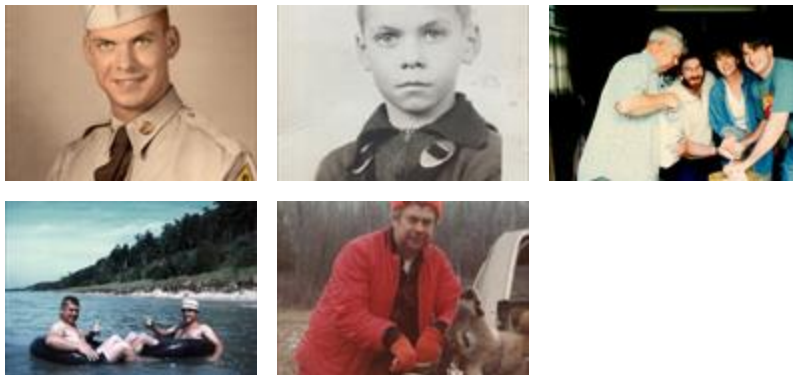
“ 2 files added to the album Normie



Dawn - August 16, 2022 at 11:19 AM

DS

“ 9 files added to the album Normie



David Smith - August 15, 2022 at 11:01 PM

MB

“ I have so many great memories of growing up next door to the Smith Family - what a life we had! Our families were so lucky to grow up together - it's hard to express this sadness and I can't imagine how difficult this has been for you.

My heart will always hold a special place for my memories of Norm, Denise, and Dennis; may they Rest In Peace.

Sending love from Kalamazoo, Marni B.

marni berghuis - August 15, 2022 at 04:44 PM

DS

Thanks Marni. I feel the same way. Tons of great memories. I hope you visit again. I posted a great photo of your dad with Norm.

David Smith - August 16, 2022 at 10:53 AM

BA

“ I loved spending time with Uncle Norm at the new family Sugar Bush over here in the Iron Mountain area. All the stories he was able to pass on. Love to you all

Brenda (Arden's granddaughter)

Brenda Aten - August 15, 2022 at 11:10 AM

DS

Thanks Brenda, You and your family are always so kind. Speaking of the Sugar Bush, Nancy has about 4 syrup bottles that we need to return to you.

David Smith - August 16, 2022 at 10:56 AM

DS

“ 2 files added to the album Normie



David Smith - August 15, 2022 at 10:48 AM