



Richard C. Smith

DEC 18, 1933 - AUG 25, 2021



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 9



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Richard Castle Smith, born December 18, 1933 in Cleveland Ohio died peacefully in his sleep Wednesday August 25, 2021. Beloved husband of 66 years to Lois (nee Miller), father of Kevin Smith (Carol), Jeffrey Smith (Anne), Julie Karasek (Doug), Suzy Cookson (Tim), Sally Smith (Patrick Dowling), Margaret Bay (Bryant), Matthew Smith (Rosemary), David Smith (Sara), 15 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son Timothy and granddaughter Amy Stacks. Son of the Late George D. Smith Sr. and Irene M. Smith (nee Castle). Dear brother of Kathleen Hummel and the late George D. Smith Jr. and Robert Smith.

Richard grew up on the east side of Cleveland in Garfield Hts. He graduated from St Tim's Elementary and East Tech High School. He attended Kent State University from where he graduated in 1954. While there, he joined the Naval Reserve, fortunate in timing, the war ended before he was called to active duty in Korea. He was proud of his service and reminisced fondly of the training he received while in the Reserve. Kent State also gave him the good fortune to meet Lois Miller, she was the love of his life and wife of 66 years. They married in December, 1954 and quickly had 9 children in 11 years, raising them in Columbia Station. They enjoyed dances, theatre and traveled the world. They always made time for each other out of the chaos of a home with 9 children.

Richard founded Designor Pools in 1964 and ran the company for over 30 years. He employed countless people, building hundreds of pools, private and commercial, all over the Midwest, Mexico and the Caribbean. In later years, he spoke at many industry events on design and other pool and water park issues. He took great pride in his work and the fun it gave others. He loved water parks, and fountains. His expression whenever he saw a towering fountain was "now that's fun". He had a great flair for showmanship that spilled over into everything he did, be it designing fountains, to hosting huge family gatherings.... must have live music, dancing, lots of food and drink.



Obituary

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With 9 children to entertain, you have to be creative and fun; he was the master. He invented the family holiday “Corn Sunday”, always in August, with a corn roast and hoopla (we didn’t realize that wasn’t a “real” holiday until we entered school and we were the only ones celebrating). He built ice boats in the winter, created a “Dune truck” out of an old stake truck to Baja all over the place with us kids hanging on for dear life, the Christmas cookie decoration competition where he came up with categories so that everyone would win, Most Colorful, Best Personality, Most Creative, Scariest etc. The Fourth of July parties at our large house on East River Rd were epic, fireworks, games, hayrides, extended friends and family numbering close to a hundred.

In addition to building swimming pools he and two partners founded and built Crystal Springs Swim Club in North Ridgeville. Many of our extended family celebrated their weddings there.

He was active in his commitment to the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities for many years. He was also a group leader and proud member of AA.

To him, everything was possible; his motto was “Just Do It”, beating Nike by at least 20 years with that slogan.

Many of us knew, we only needed to work half as hard as our father did because that meant we would be working at twice the speed of everyone else! He had charisma, optimism and a sense of fun that will be missed!

The family would appreciate contributions in lieu of flowers in his memory to The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities or to your local AA chapter.

A Funeral Mass will celebrate his life on Saturday, September 4, 2021, at 11:00 am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 26801 Royalton Road, Columbia Station, Ohio, where family will greet guests beginning 1 hour prior to the service. Please follow Covid protocol. If you are not vaccinated, please mask up.

A Graveside service will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 10AM at Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park, where VFW Post 9871, North Ridgeville will conduct Military Honors.

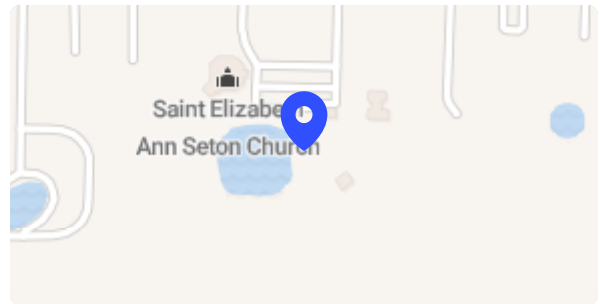


Events

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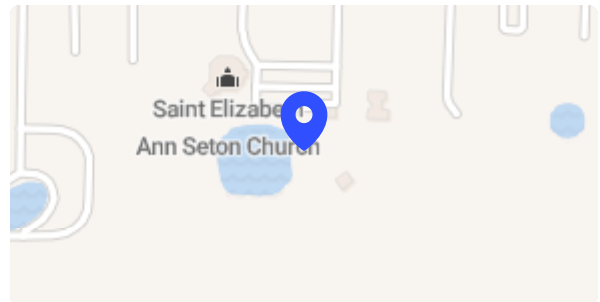
Memorial Visitation

- Saturday**, September 4, 2021
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**
25801 Royalton Rd., Columbia Station OH 44028



Memorial Mass

- Saturday**, September 4, 2021
- 11:00 AM ET
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Tribute Wall

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Bogner Family Funeral Home And Cremationservices shared a **Video**.



September 2 at 6:41 AM



Jean Anthony posted:

The Smith Family, What a beautiful tribute to your husband, Father and grandfather. May all those memories help all of you in the days weeks and months ahead. And may God give you strength and courage to face each new day. Our Deepest Sympathies, Ray, Jean, Tracie Anthony

September 10 at 4:12 AM



Colleen Smith posted:

I also remember his laughter and smiles and the jokes he told. His golfing with Grandpa (his father). The 4th of July parties were fantastic. He even paid attention to all of us other kids. I remember sitting around the fire pit on the 4th of July and listening to him and my dad (Bob) tell stories. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Colleen Smith - daughter of Bob and Dorothy Smith

September 5 at 6:57 AM



Kathy Ross posted:

What a fabulous tribute to a man who was larger than life. When I was growing up, your dad was my favorite uncle and my hero. I wanted to be as smart, and joyful, and successful as he was. I loved those Fourth of July parties! I'm very, very sorry for your loss. I wish I could be there with you to say goodbye in person. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Kathy Pat

September 4 at 12:59 AM



Eileen Jackson posted:

Sorry to hear of your loss. I don't ever remember seeing him without his ever ready smile. Sorry we can't send a delegation up to represent Dad and his family. Eileen Smith Jackson

September 3 at 7:37 AM



Tribute Wall

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Tricia Kropog posted:
Wow simply beautiful ❤️
September 3 at 2:43 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Smith family.



September 3 at 2:37 AM



Kathy Hummel - Sister posted:
Beautiful!
September 2 at 2:16 PM



Lions Club Of North Ridgeville sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Smith family.



August 29 at 6:57 PM



Tribute Wall

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Dee Hyer posted:

Hi. My name is Dee Hyer. As a former activities director at Southpark Senior Apartments I've met Richard and Lois shortly after they moved in. I believe we had an instant connection. This tall statuesque guy and this little accented woman had a lot in common. We were both chemists. I can still picture people rolling their eyes as we discussed various formulas like coffee and sugar. We thought it was fun to revisit our past and to gently irritate others present. We shared coffee almost every morning. We were also entrepreneurs. We often shared our experiences and talked about the good, the bad and the ugly parts of having a business. Richard and Lois traveled and so have I. We often discussed our various journeys. One place they suggested was Greece and it's high on my bucket list, right after the pandemic. Richard was also a writer. He published a book about his family. From his writing one could feel how much he loved his family. He gave me a copy of the book with an inscription "to our friend, Dee". Thank you Richard! He willingly participated in the community activities and was very generous. He was the first to participate in the story time where he discussed his life and his book. He often shared his catholic education. It was both funny and poignant. We met his family and got to know daughter Julie and her husband Doug. They often shared dinners and happy hour with us. Who can forget those happy hour and the wine they brought! As I said he was very generous. He donated freely. Whenever I approached him he jokingly asked "how much?" I will fondly remember taking breakfast to his room after the pandemic. Often he asked me to stay or come back because he did not want to eat alone. He missed the touch, the company and the love of his wife. I will never forget his hug when I said goodbye to him as I was moving. We lost our commutation for the last few months for which I am so sorry. Sending our condolences and love to you, the family. Probably will not attend services due to the pandemic. Please accept our virtual hugs and kisses. LoveDee and Scott

August 29 at 7:19 AM



Media

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Bogner Family Funeral Home And Cremationservices shared a **Video**.

September 2 at 6:41 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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