

## James "Jim" E. Smith

September 28, 1932 - December 25, 2022

James "Jim" E. Smith, 90, of Bluffton, passed away on Sunday morning, December 25, 2022, at Ossian Health Care in Ossian.

He was born on September 28, 1932, in Swayzee, Indiana to Paul L. & Minnie (Montgomery) Smith. Jim served our country in the United State Army as a heavy equipment engineer. After his honorable discharge, he worked as a truck driver, operated Smith's Shell & Service Station in Petroleum and drove school bus for many years for Petroleum and Southern Wells Community Schools. He retired working for Reaser Tool & Die Shop. He attended Petroleum United Methodist Church, loved camping and most of all spending time with his family.

Jim and Janet L. (Reaser) Smith were married on April 7, 1956, in Petroleum, IN. They shared 64 years of marriage together before she preceded him in death on February 23, 2020.

Survivors include three sons; Randy (Lisa) Smith of Bluffton, Larry (Sarah) Smith of Bluffton, and Chris (Missy) Smith of Liberty Center and a daughter Heidi (Doug) Fear of Uniondale along with 17 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, David (Treena) Smith of Daleville and a sister, Hazel Spaulding of Montpelier and a sister-in-law, Arlene Smith of Amboy, Indiana

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, wife Janet and siblings; Chuck Smith, Edna Strahm, Bob Smith and Tom Smith.

Services for Jim will be at 10: 30 A.M. on Thursday, (December 29, 2022) at

the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Steve Bard officiating. Burial will follow in Stahl Cemetery in Wells County, with military honors by the United States Army Honor Guard and American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton.

Visitation will be from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. on Wednesday, (December 28, 2022) and for one hour prior to the service on Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made in Jim's memory to the Petroleum United Methodist Church.

Funeral arrangement have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/ Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Stahl Cemetery

3191 E 700 S  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 28. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Visitation

DEC 29. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Funeral Service

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DEC **29**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
[info@thomarich.com](mailto:info@thomarich.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" E. Smith*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - December 28, 2022 at 03:49 PM

GS

“ *Jim and I shared many lunches at Fiat while working for Jerry at Reaser Tool & Die. Jim always had a smile and something funny to say and made work fun. He was always willing to help where he could. It was a pleasure working with him and he is well remembered. My most sincere condolences to the family. I am sure he will be missed by many. You are in my thoughts and prayers....Gary Stroud*

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**Gerald L Stroud** - December 29, 2022 at 07:45 PM

VJ

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**Valerie Wilson Jackson** - December 28, 2022 at 10:30 PM

DG

“ Sorry to learn of Jim’s passing. Jim was a great guy. Always had a smile and very easy going. He was such a great worker and was always willing to help out. Jim will be greatly missed by all who knew him. The Smith family will be in our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom



**Dan Gerdom** - December 28, 2022 at 09:33 PM

JH

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's death, many happy memories of our family and the Smith family getting together many times, laughing, and having such good fun. He will be missed by many people and these memories will last forever. Please know you are in my prayers. Judy Herring

**Judy Herring** - December 28, 2022 at 03:13 PM

TS

“ The Family of Dave and Treena Smith purchased the Forever Beloved for the family of James "Jim" E. Smith.



**The Family of Dave and Treena Smith** - December 28, 2022 at 10:44 AM

FF

“ From Stan & Lisa Gering and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James "Jim" E. Smith.



**From Stan & Lisa Gering and family** - December 28, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" E. Smith.*



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December 28, 2022 at 09:08 AM



“ *Hugs and prayers for the family I'm so sorry for your loss. Jim was a great man and will be missed by all who knew him he always had a smile when you seen him.*

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**Dana Rollins (Harris)** - December 28, 2022 at 08:20 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of James "Jim" E. Smith.*



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December 28, 2022 at 08:10 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" E. Smith.*

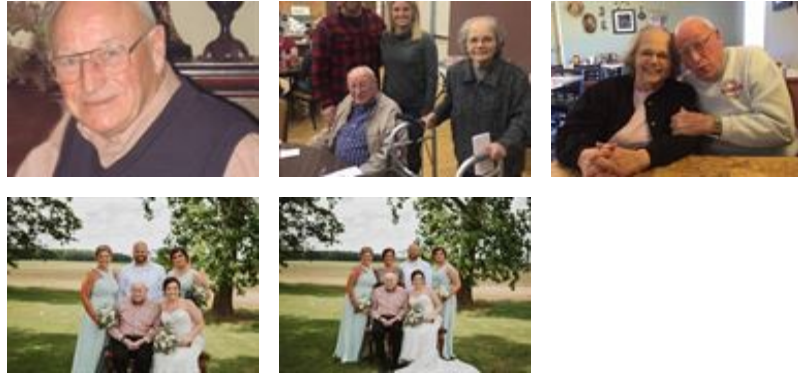


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December 27, 2022 at 10:37 PM



“ 55 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - December 27, 2022 at 05:28 PM



“ Ronda and Jeff Hall lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Smith



**Ronda Scott and Jeff Hall** - December 27, 2022 at 01:18 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" E. Smith.



December 27, 2022 at 12:38 PM

DN

“ Dwight Nancy lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Smith



Dwight & Nancy - December 27, 2022 at 10:06 AM

TM

“ Our thoughts and prayers for the Smith family. Jim was a great man he will be missed by many.



Teresa Moser - December 26, 2022 at 08:47 PM

BO

“ So sorry to read of Jim's death. Growing up in Petroleum I remember you kids when you were born and growing up! I remember babysitting for you several times! Your dad and mom were wonderful people and I'm sure you all have grown up being good people, too! My prayers to you as you cherish your many memories ! 🙏  
Barbara (Baker) Overdeer  
Columbia City

Barb Overdeer - December 26, 2022 at 09:57 AM

BC

“ Dear Heidi, Larry, Randy, and Chris so very Sorry to hear about your Father Jim! Our Prayers are with u all as you all Grieve his loss! 🙏🙏🙏🙏! May our Heavenly Father grant u all Peace, Grace, and Comfort in the the days, weeks, and months to come! God Bless the Smith Family! What a Glorious time to pass on Christmas Day he is now spending time with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and his Lovely Wife in Heaven! Your Father Jim was a very nice and kind Man always had a smile and a friendly word to say to u! We will miss him but know he is where he wants to be with Mom and Jesus! Love Barry and JoEllen! 🙏🙏❤️🙏🙏



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**Barry Crosbie** - December 25, 2022 at 10:07 PM