



Janet L. Smith

July 16, 1937 - February 23, 2020

Janet L. Smith 82, of Bluffton, passed away Sunday evening February 23, 2020 at Ossian Health Care in Ossian.

Janet was born July 16, 1937 in Bluffton to Lawrence Reaser and Nellie (Noble) Reaser-Dickason.

Janet and James "Jim" Smith were married on April 7, 1956 in Petroleum, IN. A 1955 graduate of Petroleum High School, she worked at NFM Grain Elevator and Panhandle Eastern Pipeline. Janet served as a deputy in the Wells County Recorder's office from 1985 to 1992. In 1993, Janet was elected as Wells County Recorder and held that position until 2001, where she continued to serve as a deputy in that office until she retired on August 2, 2002.

Janet was a member of JT5 Homemakers Club and attended Petroleum United Methodist Church. She loved camping and most of all spending time with her family.

Survivors include her husband of almost 64 years, Jim of Bluffton along with 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 14 great-grandchildren.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Jerry Reaser. Services for Janet will be at 10:30 am Friday, (Feb. 28, 2020) at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Steve Bard officiating. Burial will follow in Stahl Cemetery in Wells County.

Visitation will be from 4pm – 8pm Thursday, (Feb. 27, 2020) and for one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be made in Janet'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.

Cemetery Details

Stahl Cemetery

3191 E 700 S
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

FEB 28. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Service

FEB 28. 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
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Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Janet L. Smith*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 27, 2020 at 03:45 PM

KB

*So sorry for your loss
All your family are in my prayers*

Karol Baker - February 27, 2020 at 07:21 PM



“ *Janet L. Smith*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM

SD

“ *Shirley(Pinkerton) Duncan lit a candle in memory of Janet L. Smith*



Shirley(Pinkerton) Duncan - February 28, 2020 at 09:58 AM

PP

“ So sorry to hear about Janet. As soon as I heard of her passing, my first thought was “Sandy was waiting with open arms and they began talking and laughing together again”. So glad the both of them had a great working relationship. Sis thought a lot of her. May your family relish the great memories and carry forth as she would want you to. She was a jewel. Prayers to everyone in the family. She will be greatly missed.



Peggy Paxson - February 28, 2020 at 09:16 AM

AM

“ Jay and I want to express our sympathy in Janet's passing. We had lots of good times working together at Panhandle and Jay going fishing with Jim and Larry. Anita and Jay Macy.

Anita and Jay Macy - February 27, 2020 at 11:38 AM

JE

“ Jim and family,
We are so saddened to learn of the passing of Janet. She and you have been so much a part of our lives and Wells County that she will be greatly missed.
Janet was a great friend and public office holder. Thank you both for all you have meant to those around you.
Jeff and Sharon Espich

Jeffrey K Espich - February 27, 2020 at 10:22 AM

TM

“ Teresa Moser lit a candle in memory of Janet L. Smith



Teresa Moser - February 26, 2020 at 12:37 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet L. Smith.



February 26, 2020 at 12:23 PM

VJ

“ Jim, Randy, Chris, Larry, Heidi and families, This is beyond heartbreaking. To think a month ago we had no clue. What a void this will leave in the family. Mom's been re-living going to "Uncle Lawrence and Aunt Nellie's" to play together with your mom when they were kids and specifically one time when they had plans and at the last minute Grandpa Miller wouldn't let her go. So she sneaked out and rode her bike out...5 miles. They had a great time until Grandpa Miller found her!

I've enjoyed spending time with Janet and learning our history on the Reaser side, including our connection to the 4H cabin, and our "cousins" lunches. I'll miss her greatly. We all will. May God bless and comfort you. 💔 Valerie

Valerie Wilson Jackson - February 25, 2020 at 11:04 PM

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear of Janet’s passing. I met her years ago when I was a bank teller at Farmers and Merchants. Janet noticed my Janette Oke book laying on my counter and we got to chatting about our shared love of reading and how good those books were. She was such a ray of sunshine and I always looked forward to waiting on her so we could talk and laugh. My prayers are with all of you.

Stacey (Payne) Worth - February 25, 2020 at 06:56 PM

RE

“ SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS SMITHS.....HUGS FROM REEDO

REEDO - February 25, 2020 at 05:47 PM

SD

“ I loved everything about Janet! Her soft spoken words of encouragement and her smile always brought joy to my heart .It was my privilege to know this special Christian lady ! I send my love and prayers to the family at this difficult time .

Stevie Dignall - February 25, 2020 at 05:30 PM

CH

“ Janet was such a neat lady, I have known Jim and Janet nearly all my life (used to babysit for their kids). Jim, Randy, Larry, Chris, Heidi and your family’s our thoughts and prayers are with you all. So very sorry we will be unable to attend as we will be out of town. May God hold you in his arms during this difficult time.

Chuck & Bonnie Brooks

Chuck - February 25, 2020 at 10:15 AM

CB

“ *Chuck & Bonnie Brooks lit a candle in memory of Janet L. Smith*



Chuck & Bonnie Brooks - February 25, 2020 at 10:07 AM

TN

“ *Sending prayers to the family from Arizona. I was thinking about our homemakers club from years ago when I was a new bride of Alan's. I still have recipes from her and the girls. It was a great place to raise a family.*
Tonya Norris



Tonya Norris - February 25, 2020 at 09:42 AM

TR

“ *Toby and Nikki Reed purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Janet L. Smith.*



Toby and Nikki Reed - February 25, 2020 at 07:33 AM

JS

“ *Julie Studebaker lit a candle in memory of Janet L. Smith*



Julie Studebaker - February 24, 2020 at 11:59 PM

SM

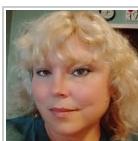
“ So many fond memories of Janet and Jim Smith while beginning my teaching career at Petroleum. Chris, Larry and Heidi, know you are in my thoughts and prayers, Moms are so special to each of us. Jim, blessings and sympathy to you too!! I still miss the many friends I made in Wells county, a special place to live!!

Sally Mittlestedt - February 24, 2020 at 10:07 PM

BO

“ Dear Jim and family,
I was so sorry to read the notification of Janet's death. I have many fond memories of your family when the boys were young and you lived in Petroleum! I remember babysitting for the 2 older ones! What fun times!
I can still hear her laughter, and I know you can, too! Cherish your many memories and know she is in no more pain in heaven! 💕🙏
🙏🙏💕
Bobbie (Baker) Overdeer. Columbia City

Barbara Overdeer - February 24, 2020 at 09:25 PM



“ I remember Janet always be so sweet an loving, she will be truly missed, sending Prayers to her family



Jai Billman - February 24, 2020 at 07:57 PM

DN

“ Dwight & Nancy lit a candle in memory of Janet L. Smith



Dwight & Nancy - February 24, 2020 at 10:18 AM

JS

One sweet lady! She had a great sense of humor.

Julie Studebaker - February 25, 2020 at 12:01 AM