

Max J. Smith

March 16, 1915 - November 24, 2009

Max J. Smith, 94, of Bluffton, died at 8:37 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Mr. Smith was born in Akron on March 16, 1915 to Carl G. and Alta (Bowman) Smith. He married Lorraine M. Soucy in Culver City, Calif. on Dec. 30, 1945; she survives. A 1933 graduate of Bluffton High School, Mr. Smith was a World War II U.S. Navy Veteran, having served as a Radioman Second Class on a merchant ship. He had a career of more than 50 years in the dry cleaning business, which included owning and operating the O.K. Modern Cleaners and Laundry. Mr. Smith was a member of American Legion Post #111, a 50-plus year member of Bluffton Masonic Lodge, a member of the Fort Wayne Scottish Rite and a 75-year member of the Bluffton Elks Lodge, where he was a Past Exalted Leader. He was also an avid golfer. Other surviving relatives include two daughters, Deborah (Mark) Clark and Amy A. (Doug) Dunwiddie, both of Bluffton; one son, Ed "Poppy" (Cheryl) Smith of Syracuse; one sister, Florence Schell of Huntington; three grandchildren, Lisa Bowman of Fort Wayne, Kyle Clark of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lauren Dunwiddie of Bluffton; three step grandchildren, including Wendy (Joey) Hendricks of Bluffton; and six step great-grandchildren. Mr. Smith was preceded in death by two brothers, John and Richard Smith. Calling hours will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney and Lemler Funeral Home, 308 W. Washington St., Bluffton. An Elks memorial service will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, while a private family service will be held at the funeral home on Saturday, with Pastor Cindy Osgood officiating. Burial is at

Elm Grove Cemetery, in Bluffton, with military graveside rites performed by American Legion Post #111. Preferred memorials are to the Elks Scholarship Fund or Family Hospice and Palliative Care. The funeral home's Web site is www.thomarich.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Max J. Smith*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Poppy and Cheryl,
Thinking of you at this difficult time and extending our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family.##imported-begin##Norma and Lonny Ripplinger##imported-end##*

December 04, 2009 at 03:17 PM



“ *To the Smith Family,
Sorry to not have been able to make it to the funeral home to see you in person and say my goodbyes to Max. He touched my life in many ways and I will be forever grateful.##imported-begin##Sandy Arnold##imported-end##*

November 30, 2009 at 11:14 PM



“ *Hi Poppy and Cheryl,
Just to let you know you are in my thoughts. It is hard to loose a parent.
Thinking of you.
Joyce and Art##imported-begin##Joyce Kay Needler##imported-end##*

November 30, 2009 at 05:11 PM



“ To the entire Max Smith Family , soo sorry to read of your loss .Your Dad, husband was a fine gentleman & customer.I am sure the many years will yield many memories for all of you. Our prayers are with all of you .

Respectfully submitted , Jerry & Darlene Garrett###imported-begin##Jerry Garrett###imported-end##

November 26, 2009 at 09:32 PM



“ Debbie and Poppy, I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Uncle Max. I'm lucky to have seen him this summer in Huntington. I always remember our visits during Thanksgiving and Christmas to your house, Aunt Florence's, and ours'. My thoughts are with you again on Thanksgiving. David###imported-begin##David Smith###imported-end##

November 26, 2009 at 05:40 PM

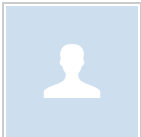


“ Lorraine, Deb and Poppy (I don't think Amy would remember me), All the wonderful memories of your parents during their business years in Bluffton, and the stories of the Bieri/Smith/Fritz, etc. stories at Lake Tippecanoe that preceded my marriage to Gene (what fun!). How blessed you all were to have your dad for 94 years and still have your mom living. Gene's been gone 12 years already; we left Bluffton in 1986 but it's still "home" in so many ways and always will be. Your dad was definitely one of the forefathers of the city of Bluffton and made a big difference in the daily lives of all of us. And no one has a smile like your mom's--give her a hug for me.

Sending lots of love and many prayers to you all, Lynne (Bierie) Straney

Clarkston, MI###imported-begin###Lynne (Bierie) Straney###imported-end##

November 26, 2009 at 12:54 AM



“ Hi Poppy and family,
Wow, what a long life he lived and from the obituary, he was involved a great deal in the Bluffton Community. We know he was surrounded by a loving family and was lifted by his children and friends each day. Poppy, sending hugs to your mother as she grieves, copes and heals from her loss. May the Lord wrap his arms around you and lift you throughout your healing. Blessings, Becky and Stan###imported-begin###Stan and Becky Fox###imported-end##

November 25, 2009 at 09:26 PM



“ Dear Poppy and Cheryl and the Smith family...

We extend to your whole family our sympathies and please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Love, Phil and Jan Keim##imported-begin##Phil and Jan Keim##imported-end##

November 25, 2009 at 12:46 PM



“ Poppy and Smiff,
Sorry for your loss, my thoughts are with you in this time of reflection for Mr. Smith. May he rest in peace.

Keith##imported-begin##Keith Huffman##imported-end##

November 25, 2009 at 11:56 AM



“ Poppy and Cheryl,

Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers at this time of great sadness.

Love, Deb and Mike##imported-begin##Deb and Mike Mangas##imported-end##

November 25, 2009 at 08:57 AM



“ Sorry we could not make it. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.##imported-begin##Chris & Ashley Smith##imported-end##

November 25, 2009 at 08:40 AM