



Kenneth R. Smith

June 1, 1928 - May 21, 2018

Kenneth R. Smith passed away peacefully on Monday, May 21, 2018, surrounded by his wife and children. Born in Riverside, Ken was 89 years old. He was a resident of Palmyra since 1955.

Beloved husband of 68 years to Eleanor F. (Lutts). Loving father of Karen (Craig) Wille, Kathi Smith, Lori (Christian) Gerhardt, Kenneth (Denise) Smith, Randall (Deborah) Smith and Bradley Smith. Cherished grandfather of Brett, Craig Lance, Ryan, Korin, Martin, Kenneth, Heather, Cavan, Spencer, Melissa, Victoria, Kendal, Keely-Shea, Randall, Erika and Ashley; and great grandfather of Abigail, Ryan, Aryanna, Annabelle, Sean Patrick, Daniella, Monica, Sydney Diane, Tyson Mitchell, Jude Martin, Adonis, Kennedy-Rae, Dean, Connor and Savanna.

Ken was a member of the Beverly United Methodist Church in Beverly, NJ for many years.

In 1957, Ken and his wife founded Niagara Pool & Spas in Voorhees. As a hobby Ken and Eleanor restored a farm and barn house dated 1755 in Moorestown. Ken especially loved spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A gathering of family and friends will be Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 11 a.m. to 12 noon at Givnish of Cinnaminson 1200 Route 130

North. His Funeral Service will follow at 12 noon. Interment will take place at the Asbury Methodist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the Smith family would appreciate memorial contributions, in memory of Kenneth R. Smith, made to The Arc Gloucester's Camp Sun 'N Fun. Checks made payable to The Arc Gloucester, 1555 Gateway Boulevard, West Deptford, NJ 08096.

Please share your fondest memories by using the 'Tribute Wall' tab. Include Pictures or videos with your memory by using the "Add Photos & Videos" link or tab.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

MAY **24.** 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Cinnaminson
1200 Route 130 N
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
(856) 829-8000
info@givnish.com
<https://www.givnish.com>

Gathering of Family and Friends

MAY **25.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Cinnaminson
1200 Route 130 N
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
(856) 829-8000
info@givnish.com
<https://www.givnish.com>

Funeral Service

MAY **25.** 12:00 PM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Cinnaminson
1200 Route 130 N
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
(856) 829-8000
info@givnish.com
<https://www.givnish.com>

Burial

MAY 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

Asbury United Methodist Church
2492 Andover Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Tribute Wall



“ *Givnish Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth R. Smith*



Givnish Funeral Home - May 23, 2018 at 05:13 PM



“ *Kenneth R. Smith*

September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM



“ *sorry to see your dad passed, RANDY. We sure did have some fun in that small town. YOUR OLD FRIEND, LENNY F.*

LEN - June 02, 2018 at 06:10 AM

KA

“ How do you sum up a man’s life you call Daddy? So many memories; you want more time with him. I didn’t have to think hard, I do not have to say too much. All you have to do is look around this room. nWhat I see is my Mom, the love of Daddy’s life, who loved Daddy every second of her life. My brothers, Kenny, Randy and Bradley who went above and beyond what most people could do to care for Daddy when he no longer could care for himself. My sisters, Karen and Lori who so unselfishly took time away from their own families to care for Daddy. Their spouses, Denise, Debbie, Craig, Chris, who held down the forts while our Daddy needed help. All you have to do is look at all the pictures of Daddy’s life. Everyday he was loved. When I was a young girl, 5,6 years of age, we had a swing set Daddy built between two pear trees, like in the video. Probably a 15 ft high 12 feet wide beam supported the swing set; which Daddy built. I would climb up the pear tree on one side & walk across the beam to the other side. Like one of the Wallenda’s. Mom would stand at the back door hollering to Daddy, “Why do you let her do that?” It was our thing! Daddy would shout back, “ I’ll catch her if she falls.” I was never afraid; I knew Daddy would catch me. He caught all of us at different times in our lives. That was Daddy for us, someone we could trust. He was a man of integrity, deeply loved and respected by all. His family, friends, business associates, our friends, everyone loved Daddy. I could count on less than one hand the times I saw my Daddy angry. Daddy took life in stride; made it look easy. If he complained, which was rare, it was about the weather when it affected the pool business. These last months, Daddy complained a lot, but that wasn’t who we knew so we knew he needed us more than ever. We take it for granted so much of what Mom and Dad accomplished, we grew up with it, its what we knew. When you really stand back and think about it, Mom & Daddy together were a dynamic team. They raised six incredible children. They built a very success business from scratch, Niagara Pools. Like the stone wall around the house in the Poconos, each piece was perfectly put together with love. What we affectionally call “the Farm” in Moorestown, was a dream home for Mom and Dad. How many hours did we drive around in that three-seated station wagon

looking for the perfect house to restore! They did not care about taking cruises, playing golf or flying to Europe. What they loved was all the planning, looking for antiques, design work, the gardens, spending time together. Daddy could build anything. He was an exceptional craftsman, wood was his specialty! Give the man a piece of wood & he would turn it into a masterpiece. Mom loves any kind of old antique wooden chair. Daddy fixed more chairs for Mom than Lazy Boy ever built. Neither of them, had specialized training in anything they accomplished. What they had; was passion for what they loved doing together; never giving up; believing they could; and believing in each other and God. Daddy's have a special place; especially in a girl's life. My first son, Marty Ott III, was named after his Dad, Martin Ott, Jr., who was named after his Dad; Martin Ott, Sr. When I found out I was having another baby, I still had my girl name picked. I needed a boy name. We both agreed if it was a son, there was only one other name that would be worthy of another blessing and that was Kenneth, named after my Daddy. I know my Dad loved Kenny named after him, because he knew I loved him so much. Look around the room and you will see our Daddy, Pop and Father lived a wonderful life. Mom, we all thank you so so very much for taking such good care of Daddy for us; especially in the last ten years. If not for you, he would have never been here with us this long, and we all agree. You were Daddy's inspiration, love, drive and reason he enjoyed such a wonderful life. Deepest Love, Kathi

Kathi - May 28, 2018 at 01:35 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kenneth R. Smith.*



May 24, 2018 at 11:16 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



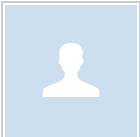
Givnish Funeral Home - May 24, 2018 at 11:15 AM



“ 51 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Givnish Funeral Home - May 24, 2018 at 08:26 AM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of *Kenneth R. Smith*.



May 23, 2018 at 08:10 PM

KE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



ken.smith - May 23, 2018 at 05:07 PM

KE

"It is with great pride and pleasure I am writing about one of my favorite people. One of my greatest inspirations indeed. My grandfather, Kenneth Smith has left this earth to be at home with our gracious God, the angels, his many friends, and family. I believe he's leaving behind a legacy. Anyone who knew my grandfather was blessed with kindness, sincerity and humility above all. He lived quite a life... He married my grandmother and told her he was going to marry her the first night they met. After 68 years their love never faded. Not for a moment. It was true love to the core. They also shared the same birthday, imagine that... it was meant to be. He would have been 90 on June 1st.

My grandfather had strength and affection on so many levels. He would happily give constructive criticism always with a kind heart. He was very generous and thoughtful. Always willing to help, even when he couldn't.. He was fun. He was funny and loved to joke. He loved animals and nature. He was always a pleaser... but he had sense. He was appreciative. He was diligent and he was not afraid of hard work. He built a million dollar business from scratch literally with his bare hands. When we would talk "business" he always reminded me he wanted to go in the pool business but he didn't even have a shovel. He knew little about business but went on with courage and determination. He always did and always will give me the encouragement I need. With the help of my grandmother, they created a thriving business, met a ton of amazing friends and made a beautiful family of 6 healthy children. They were upstanding members of the community and very well respected by many. He was living the American Dream.

But life isn't always easy. We are here to grow and expand ourselves through experience. We have to take the good with the bad. I've cared for my grandparents regularly and consistently for the last 7 years so I've seen it all. My grandfather was a real trooper in the end. No words could ever describe how he displayed his strength on a daily basis. I have the utmost respect for him as a human being. He was always willing to "fight" for his wellbeing and care for those he loved. He loved and adored my grandmother and I know he will be missed by her dearly. He also attempted bravely to show his family what a fighter he really was.

I can honestly say that knowing him has impacted my soul deeply. He was and is a part of my blueprint. I will forever be grateful for the time we spent together and I am overjoyed to be part of a family that genuinely loves one another. Thank you Pop-pop for showing us your love and your courage...we'll carry it on forever. My tears are happy ones. Rest your soul sweet man. Thanks for reading. 💖💖" --Heather Gerhardt

ken.smith - May 23, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ 144 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Givnish Funeral Home - May 23, 2018 at 04:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Givnish Funeral Home - May 23, 2018 at 08:48 AM

KS

“ *Daddy loving coffee and pastry on a Sunday morning. Mommy always made sure he looked his best and took wonderful care of him. I love you Daddy. He always said, “You better!” Love Kathi, aka Crackers*



Kathi Smith - May 23, 2018 at 05:50 AM

KE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



ken.smith - May 22, 2018 at 08:38 PM

KE

Celebrating a their shared birthday, June 1st.

ken.smith - May 23, 2018 at 05:01 PM