



Ed Smith

November 11, 2019

William Edward "Ed" Smith, 67, passed away on November 11, 2019 after a brief illness. He was predeceased by his father, William J. Smith, Jr and mother, Barbara Inez Smith. He is survived by his sister Beth and cousins Fred and Connie Smith and Barbara Anne Rich.

Ed graduated from Churchland High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Old Dominion University. He spent much of his career in sales and marketing and was the founder of Chevalier Graphic Machinery, LLC. While he spent most of his adult years in Northern Virginia, in 2015 he moved back to Portsmouth to assist with the care of his father.

Ed was a passionate animal lover and enjoyed the companionship of many dogs over his lifetime especially Poola, Angel, LOKI and his current faithful friend YODA. He was a member of the Virginia German Shepherd Rescue.

Ed believed that life was meant to be enjoyed. He was an avid sailor of catamarans in his younger years. He spent many years teaching spin classes at Worldgate Sport and Health in Herndon, Va where he was known for his humor and fun classes. He was also known for pulling people together to share a meal or work on a project.

In lieu of flowers, Ed would be pleased if friends would have a toast to remember him or contribute to an animal rescue.

A graveside service will be held 11 a.m. Monday, November 18, 2019 in Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends in Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel on Sunday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens

4569 Shoulders Hill Road
Suffolk, VA 23435

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 484-3373

Graveside Service

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens
4569 Shoulders Hill Road
Suffolk, VA 23435

Tribute Wall

KA

“ *My condolences to his family and friends. Heaven gained another angel. Thank you for allowing me to help take care of you at home.*
Kathy, RN, Intrepid Home Health

Kathy - November 25, 2019 at 07:46 PM

EH

“ *What we have once enjoyed deeply we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us. (Helen Keller)*
We send our deepest condolences to the family, our friends. David and Elizabeth Harris

Elizabeth Harris - November 18, 2019 at 11:53 PM

CB

“ *I didn't know Ed for very long but will always be thankful I had the chance to know him, even a little. Ed and I met when he decided to adopt a rescue German Shepherd and I had the pleasure to introduce him to Yoda. It was love at first sight for them both. I was able to enjoy a number of visits with them over the following months and will always remember the smile in his eyes and love in his heart.*

Cheryl Brewster - November 18, 2019 at 03:44 PM

AH

“ *I was in high school with Ed. We were in some classes together and I always thought he was so smart. He distracted me in class, as he always made me laugh. Sorry he left us before our 50th reunion next year.*

Amy Boyce Hruska - November 17, 2019 at 10:58 PM

MM

“ Like many other of Ed’s friends from Northern Virginia, I first met Ed when he was teaching the circuit training class at Worldgate Athletic Club. That morphed into a cycle class when the club canceled the circuit class, and we followed Ed from one end of the upper floor in the club to the other, because we enjoyed both his instruction and the friendly atmosphere he brought with him. I still have half a dozen tee shirts from fundraising rides Ed sponsored during his time at Worldgate, including first good deed of the year rides that he would do to raise money for good causes on Jan 1 for a number of years.

The friendship branched outside the club to visits at Friday Night Live, a great tradition that Ed helped start, where he would typically offer me a chair that he had brought along, and lunches at Charcoal Kebab, where a diverse group of Worldgate members, alumni, and friends gather for lunch when we can. Ed always has something interesting to contribute to the discussions around the table, and Mohammed, the owner of the restaurant recently recalled that Ed would ask for extra servings of the curry sauce, and I remember seeing Ed pour the sauce over his food with a smile on his face.

Ed’s friends in NoVa like me missed his regular company when he moved to Portsmouth but we admired his devotion to taking care of his father. We enjoyed his periodic visits to NoVa and stayed in touch via email. A couple of years ago, Ed and I met up in Hopewell to see a Tanya Tucker concert together. We both enjoyed the concert and catching up and I have fond memories of that visit, wish we had gotten together more often after he moved.

I will miss Ed’s friendship but know he is in a good place.

Mike Matichich - November 17, 2019 at 03:48 PM

MS

“ Ed was the most genuine person I ever met. He was so funny, and so kind, and so generous. I loved being a part of his circle, and years after he left Herndon, his was the first “thinking of you” card I received when my husband was diagnosed with cancer. He was a special man and a special friend. He made me laugh, and I made him laugh. Though I hadn’t spoken with him for years his passing hit me like a truck. I’ll miss you Ed. But I’ll see you again someday.

Michelle Siraj - November 17, 2019 at 11:28 AM

JA

“ We met Ed at Melanie and Frank Warakomski's home when he came by to help move a piece of furniture upstairs. This is Ed. personified--always helping others. Over the years Melanie often talked about what he was doing, all of the activities he supported and his devotion to his family and beloved dogs. We admired him very much.

Ed was such a bright and shining star. He leaves such a big hole in the heart every person knew him.

Love, Jackie and Haddock Sothoron

Jackie - November 15, 2019 at 04:38 PM

KV

“ I met Ed when I took his cycle class at Worldgate Sport and Health. He had a great class, good music, good workout and fun fun fun. I loved to give a good scream if I liked a song. There was one song that Ed played and I loved it. It was Tina Turner's "Simply the Best". When Ed would play it I would scream "that's you Ed". You are "Simply the Best". He would be so embarrassed and put his head down. As everyone knows Ed was a dog lover. When my oldest dog Bailey was very sick Ed called me every day. He understood. I can't tell you how much that meant to me. When Ed moved to Portsmouth to take care of his father we had a party for him. I had a special cup made for him. It was red and on one side it said "Simply the Best". On the other side there was a bicycle. We kept in touch when he moved The last few times I talked to him he said the cup was showing it's wear. Ed also introduced me to the Charcoal Kabob Saturday lunches the cycle group had. I still enjoy those lunches. I could go on and on about Ed but just want to say Ed was a good friend. He was "SIMPLY THE BEST" and I will miss him very much.

Kathy Verkoski

Kathy Verkoski - November 15, 2019 at 08:17 AM

SB

“ I met Ed while we both donated blood at Worldgate about 26 years ago and we became friends immediately.

We used to go to spin class together and have some very interesting discussions over coffee and brownies. When our cycle teacher left, I with the help of others convinced Ed to take over and teach the class. That was the beginning of many years of Ed teaching spin and reinventing the program over and over again. Ed was like family and I have Many years worth of fond memories. Even after my move to FI, we kept in touch and would laugh over photos of my son’s dog adventures and the alligators pictures I would send him. I loved seeing pictures of Yoda and hearing about their friendship.

I imagine you are with your mom & dad and Playing with the pups you missed so much.

I will truly miss you my friend.



Sara Branscome - November 14, 2019 at 10:48 PM

MS

“ ‘You are the high water mark of my my week’ is what Ed told me every time I talked to him or spent time with him over the past 10+ years. Ed was the most kind and genuine person I was ever blessed to know. He never took himself seriously but was passionate about his love of friends, family, pets, politics, movies, battleship games and sailing. I will miss him dearly.

maureen simpson - November 14, 2019 at 08:08 PM

DM

“ I first met Ed as a kid at Worldgate, and got to know him later as an adult. Across those 25+ years he was always smiling, full of energy, and kind. Even when he was dealing with a pack of unruly kids wreaking havoc. Ed seemed to find joy in every corner of life, and I know he’s smiling (surrounded by dogs) right now.

Doug McCallum - November 14, 2019 at 02:32 PM

EM

“ A true and loyal friend. Ed is a gentle soul who enjoyed music, friends and shared meals. He will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Ed McCallum - November 14, 2019 at 10:25 AM

MW

“ Ed loved his friends with his whole heart. He was friendly, and so very generous; he would share whatever he had with anyone who needed it. When I first met Ed in 1983, he was a spin cycle instructor at Worldgate Athletic Club in Herndon, VA. He played a lot of country music and many of his spinners weren't particularly fond of country, but Ed's infectious style and corny jokes endeared us all to him. If you went into his class not knowing anyone, by the time you left you had 30 new friends if Ed had anything to say about it. He went out of his way to invite people to social activities outside of the class, and he made us all feel like we were his special friend. Ed made the Worldgate health club members he came in contact with feel a true sense of community. Ed also spent many extra, uncompensated hours organizing charity rides, collecting door prizes for all participants on his own time. He also spent hours maintaining the cycle equipment to ensure we had the best ride during our classes.

Ed introduced me to the wonderful organization, Friday Night Live, a hugely successful free summer concert series in Herndon, VA. Ed was involved in the planning and execution of the concert series from its inception. He never wanted any recognition for this or the many hours he spent working for Friday Night Live. But he was an ace recruiter and brought many of the volunteers on board that are still involved today.

And Ed loved his doggies. He took wonderful care of his rescues, Angel, Loki and Yoda. There were times when Ed would buy very expensive medicine for their care, even when he didn't have enough money to spend on himself. Those German shepherds were most loved by dear Ed.

I am heartbroken that we have lost such a cherished friend. He touched so many lives with his love. Fair winds and following seas, sweet Ed, until we meet again.

Love, Melanie

Melanie Warakomski - November 13, 2019 at 06:34 PM

CB

“ I met Ed while working at the hospital and I remember him being so friendly and patient with me as I learned my new job. He always said I had a beautiful smile and he started calling me Elf Princess one day when I was wearing all green and feeling down. I was just having a really rough day and he made me smile. From that day on every time he'd come in he would refer to me as Elf Princess and we'd talk about our love for dogs, fantasy movies and books and just silly stuff. He always made my day. Then one day he walked in and seemed a little off, which was not typical of him and I asked how he was doing he responded with, "Oh just slaying dragons," I knew that meant he was having a rough day, but it was then that I nicknamed him Dragon Slayer and from that day forward we only referred to each other as Elf Princess and Dragon Slayer. Even after I moved he continued to reach out just to say hi. Every text message and photo of Yoda, made my day. He was a very good friend and I will always miss him and think of him fondly. Rest In Peace Dragon Slayer!

Crystal Bailey - November 13, 2019 at 11:27 AM