



William R. ("Bill") Smith

July 15, 1941 - October 4, 2009

William R. ("Bill") Smith passed away at his home near Nashville, IN on October 4, 2009. Bill was born on July 15, 1941 to Ray O. And Lois (Rishling) Smith in Rensselaer, IN, both of whom predeceased him. Bill was a lifelong resident of Rensselaer until his retirement in 2004, when he and his wife, Linda, "moved to the hills" near Nashville.

Bill graduated from Rensselaer High School in 1959 and began a career in farming with his father. Bill soon discovered that he had a talent for agri-business and embarked on a long career in this field with Heinhold Elevator in Rensselaer. Over the years, Bill continued his work in agri-business in Rensselaer with Cargill and Jasper County Farm Bureau, from which he retired. Throughout his career Bill made many friends in the farming and agri-business community of Rensselaer.

Bill met the love of his life, Linda Wilds Smith in Lafayette, IN and they married on August 21, 1965. Bill and Linda, who survives, made their home and raised their family in Rensselaer. By 2004 Bill and Linda were ready to move to the hills of Brown County, IN and begin their retirement. During his retirement, Bill enjoyed morning coffee with his friends at Brownie's restaurant and his part-time job at Lowe's in Bloomington.

In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by his daughter, Diane Smith, and his

son, Chris Smith (wife Laura Crawford-Smith). Bill is also survived by his sisters, Nancy Stevens (husband Jerry) and Joyce Wall (husband Wayne), as well as numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. Bill is also survived by all his friends in the Rensselaer and Nashville communities, all of whom will remember Bill's engaging wit and winning smile.

Bill will be interred during graveside services at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Rensselaer on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 11 a.m. Bill's family wishes to extend an invitation to all of his friends and former colleagues to join them at the graveside service.

Previous Events

Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM.

Graveside

Tribute Wall



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Susie,
Wickenburg,AZ##imported-begin##Susan Rishling
Emetti##imported-end##*

October 15, 2009 at 10:15 PM



“ *Dear Linda...the morning of your Bill's funeral, Joe and I had guests that very hour arriving from Canada. Since it has been many years including a new wife since we've seen them I felt we needed to be here. The first wife (died with a long bout of cancer) and I were penpals since 8th grade...so it has been a long friendship. Bette K. has mentioned Bill's illness. She wanted to continue to live there which was alright with us. George and Joan have worked hard to take care of her things but have the house sorted out now. I am trying to give it to Habitat for Humanity ..I hope it will not be too costly for them to move it. We had the big barn and crib burned and buried. It is a shame but too big and costly of a job for me to handle. Time moves on and things change...more and more as we live to be older.
I still have contact with lots of those kids from long ago that played with those nice toys from you folks...thanks so much as I was on a rather limited budget those days.
Here's hoping you are doing alright and life treats you well.
With Sympathy,
Madalyn##imported-begin##Madalyn Miller Wood##imported-end##*

October 14, 2009 at 10:02 PM



“ For the family, I am sorry for your great loss. There are too many memories to go into growing up with bill. We rode our horses together, stayed at each others house overnight and spent many hours shooting hoops at the old Marion grade school. We both got Mr. Lockard's big pattle in the 5th grade for tusseling on the playground--- such memories, what a guy. God Bless his family-- Rev. Gary Lehe, Richmond Texas###imported-begin###Rev. Gary Lehe###imported-end##

October 08, 2009 at 01:07 AM



“ Our sincere sympathy to the family.###imported-begin###Ron and Lib Prohosky###imported-end##

October 07, 2009 at 06:47 PM



“ Our prayers go out to the family of cousin Bill. I remember the good times we had at the farm in our teen years. Sorry we couldn't be there but we thank Linda for keeping us advised. God Bless the Smith family. Our prayers are with all of you.

Ron and Debby Baker
Bradenton, Florida###imported-begin###Ron and Debby Baker###imported-end##

October 07, 2009 at 07:24 AM



“ MY SINCERE SYMPATHY TO BILL'S FAMILY. SO GLAD I GOT TO SEE BILL AT OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE. MY PRAYERS ARE FOR A PEACE THAT SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING IN YOUR LOSS.
IN CHRIST,
JUDIE##imported-begin##JUDIE EGER JOHNSON##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 07:23 PM



“ Even though I have not had a chance to visit with Bill for many years, I will always remember the good times we had while he worked with Cargill.##imported-begin##Mark Bieber##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 03:55 PM



“ Linda,

We both have fond memories of Bill and will always keep both of you in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Mayor Herb & Mrs. Luanne Arihood##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 02:39 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Chris Hall##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 10:19 AM



“ *My prayers are with the family. Bill was a joy to talk to when I called over to Ade Elevator or when he called in after he retired.*

Erica##imported-begin##Scott & Erica Manns & family##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 10:00 AM



“ *A good friend has left us for a better place, one that doesn't have grain or fert dust to contend with.*

Guy and Barb Lucas##imported-begin##Guy E. Lucas & Dr. Barb Lucas##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 08:46 AM



“ *Sorry to here of Bill's passing. He is now in a better place. Bill & I worked together at the Co-op for many years. I will never forget his smile and humor. He was a special person who would do anything for you.*

Dick & Norma Denhart##imported-begin##Richard and Norma Denhart##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 08:27 AM



“ I grew up with Bill - went through twelve years of school with him. He taught me how to do the jump shot in basketball there in old Marion School. He always was a warm friendly boy and I valued his friendship. His parents were just the best folks and he had a wonderful family. God bless my friend and may God give his family His love at this time.

*LtCol Neal J. Michal, Jr.
Grayling, Michigan##imported-begin##LtCol Neal J. Michal,
Jr.##imported-end##*

October 06, 2009 at 08:02 AM



“ I want to extend my sympathy to Linda, Diane and Chris. Also to Bill's sisters Nancy and Joyce. I pray that God will comfort you and bless you all. I grew up and graduated along side of Bill and always enjoyed being his friend.

*Carolyn Rowen Williams##imported-begin##Carolyn Rowen
Williams##imported-end##*

October 05, 2009 at 11:06 PM



“ Sending you this message of comfort
hope it plays a small part in easing
the sadness that you feel in your heart.

44 years Lin brings special memories
campers, camping, horses, cardplaying,
trips and dinners.

You and your family are in our prayers.
Jim and Martha##imported-begin##Martha L.
Brandenburg##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 10:26 PM