



Mark Edmund Nathaniel Smith

October 29, 1956 - May 2, 2026

Mark E. Smith, age 69, of Minnetonka, Minnesota, peacefully entered the gates of heaven on May 2, 2026. Mark lived a life defined by generosity, craftsmanship, and a deep love for the people around him.

Mark was born on October 29, 1956, St. Catherines Ontario Canada to Ross and Elizabeth Smith (deceased). Due to his father's business Mark lived in many locations including St. Catharines ON, Kitchener ON, Toronto ON, Sydney NS, before his family moved to Minnesota in 1971.

He received a BS of Economics from Hillsdale college where he made lifelong friends including many of his Phi Sig brothers. He received his Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University where he met the love of his life Christine. They were married in 1983 and together they built a home filled with laughter, hospitality, and unwavering support of family and friends.

Mark was the proud father of two sons, whom he raised with a steady, loving hand. His oldest son, Ned Smith, and Ned's wife Rochelle, blessed him with two grandsons, Grayson and Caden, who brought him endless joy. His youngest son, Ross Smith, and Ross's wife Stephanie, gave him his granddaughter Eve, who lit up his world.

Mark and Christine enjoyed spending time together with family and friends.

During the summer they spent time on their boat cruising the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, especially letting his grandchildren drive the boat. He loved tennis and could often be found on the tennis court.

Mark started his career as a corporate attorney but transitioned his career to his love of technology. Before his retirement, he was an IT Program Manager for Optum.

He was a long-time member of Wayzata Community Church where he served as Treasurer for many years. He had great joy in coaching both of his son's hockey teams and served as a Director of Minnesota Youth Hockey Association's (MYHA) District Six and on the board of Minnetonka Youth Hockey.

Mark had a gift for bringing people together. Whether he was working on his boat or hosting friends and family, he created spaces where others felt welcome. He loved being on the water, fixing things with his hands, and sharing stories that made people feel like they belonged.

Above all, Mark was proud of his family and the life he built. He was especially proud of his two sons. The values he lived by, including kindness, hard work, loyalty, and the importance of showing up for the people you love, continue on in them. His influence is visible in the way they lead their families, care for others, and carry forward the steady strength he modeled every day.

His legacy lives on in the people he loved the gatherings he made memorable, and the quiet, enduring values he passed down to the next generation.

Besides his wife, children and grandchildren Mark is survived by his siblings Cynthia (Lenard) Krull, David (Kim) Smith, and Pamela Smith, as well as his

sisters-in law Cindy (Paul) Budek, Deborah (Kevin) Grabe, Denise (Jack, deceased) Fix and brothers-in-law Andrew (Carolyn) and John (Tricia) Etzler and many cousins, nieces and nephews who he cherished throughout his life.

A memorial service will be held on May 16th at 11 am, with visitation starting at 10 am CST at Washburn McReavy 7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made on Mark's behalf to Minneapolis Crisis Center.

The family would like to thank the nurses at Methodist Hospital ICU and Park Nicollett Hospice who gave him such great care during his final days.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Memorial Service

MAY 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Christine and family,
We are so sorry to hear about Mark. Mark was always so friendly,
with a constant smile on his face.
Cindy and Scott Fjelsta (F Dock)*

cindy Fjelsta - May 15 at 11:31 AM

CA

“ *Cindy A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Edmund Nathaniel Smith.*

Cindy A. - May 15 at 11:27 AM

WC

“ *Warmest - Optima Consulting purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mark Edmund Nathaniel Smith.*



Warmest - Optima Consulting - May 15 at 11:12 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark Edmund Nathaniel Smith.*



May 14 at 08:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mark Edmund Nathaniel Smith.

May 14 at 08:07 PM



“ Christine and family, we are saddened and shocked by Mark's passing. We so much enjoyed his presence at the Tiki, always with a smile and a warm greeting. We will always have fond memories of him. May you feel support always in your fondest memories. Liz and Bob Mittet

Bob Mittet - May 07 at 09:59 PM



“ sending my condolences on your loss. Lots of great memories from Hillsdale College hockey. David Bell



David Bell - May 06 at 04:35 PM



“ Mark, a Phi Sig brother of mine, was extraordinary. I will miss him and am so sorry for your loss.

Paul Krawzak - May 05 at 11:15 AM

MF

“ Mike, Des, Tucker and Del Fulton purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mark Edmund Nathaniel Smith.



Mike, Des, Tucker and Del Fulton - May 05 at 09:49 AM

SP

“ I knew Mark from Hillsdale College, we were not in the same fraternity but were friends ! So sorry for your loss!

Scott Phillips - May 05 at 08:14 AM

RK

“ 2 files added to the album Smith Kolker 2015



Roger Kolker - May 04 at 03:48 PM

RK

Rosemarie & I send our sincere condolences to Christine and her family. We last saw Mark in 2015, and just missed an opportunity in 2025. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Roger Kolker - May 04 at 03:51 PM



“Christine and family, our love and prayers go out to you on the devastating loss of a wonderful man. Mark was love and light, friendship and wisdom, and a fantastic boating neighbor for our many years on F-Dock. Our many late nights in the tiki together are etched in our memories. We love you! ❤️ Doug and Sarah Sprinthall



Sarah Sprinthall - May 04 at 01:34 PM

LB

Christine and family, I'm so sorry to hear your news. Mark was always such a nice guy. Lots of fun at Phi Sig parties! Mark, you will be missed. Rest in peace, friend.

Lee Belf - May 04 at 06:42 PM

FU

If there was a Class of Blake '75 award for Nicest Guy, his name would be on it. We were lucky to have had his friendship and kindness. See ya soon, brother.

Fuss - May 05 at 02:45 AM