



Gary Dean Smith Sr

August 24, 1946 - February 4, 2026

Gary Dean Smith, Sr., age 79, of Buffalo, Missouri, entered into rest on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at his home with his beloved family by his side.

Gary was born on August 24, 1946, in Fair Grove, Missouri to the late Eurman “Tom” and Nellie Lucinda (Sloan) Smith. Following High School, Gary was drafted into the United States Army serving in the Vietnam War as a combat engineer.

Gary was a trucker who spent more than 40 years on the road providing for his family, this sacrifice caused him to miss out on many special moments in life. He was ten feet tall and bullet proof, but he loved fiercely. He was stubborn and ornery, always getting a kick out of pushing people’s buttons. He was a great storyteller and remarkably witty, with a laugh that was like none other. Gary was a fisherman at heart, that’s where he found his peace. He was also an all-around great outdoorsman, enjoying hunting, camping, cutting wood, mowing the yard and feeding his hummingbirds. He was a good mechanic that liked to stay busy tinkering in his garage. He also loved the occasional trip to the casino, playing cards and watching movies.

Gary was a very proud and protective father of seven children. He was always there to bail his kids out of tight situations. He loved and cherished his grandchildren and great grandchildren; they were the highlight of his life. Gary loved his family more than anything and his huge personality and loving spirit will be missed but continues to live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

Gary was preceded by his parents, his loving wife Linda Lee (Teson) Smith who he missed dearly every day, two grandchildren: Derek and Jeremiah, his brothers Larry, Keith, Dale and Jimmy, his sisters Sharon, Darlene and Melody. He is survived by his children: Gary “Dean” Smith Jr., David Smith and wife Jill, Dawn Nye and husband Dan, Stephan “Doug” Smith and wife Norma, Angela Smith, Brian Smith and wife Tina, Jennifer Smith and husband Nick. Grandchildren: Jeffery, Jordan, Joseph, David, Rickie, River, Zoe, Lily, Xander, Christian, Tristan, Dakota and Connor. Great Grandchildren: Traven,

Raylen, Alayna, Tytan, Bella, Arya, Emma and Lilah. Brother Tommy and sisters Lynn and Karla as well as various in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are asked to be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Memorial services are set for Saturday, February 14, 2026, with a come and go visitation from 1:00-2:00 p.m. and formal service at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Vernon Leighty officiating.

Cremation rites have been entrusted to Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 14. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo
931 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 993
Buffalo, MO 65622
(417) 345-2211
info@cantlonotterness.com
<https://www.cantlonotterness.com>

Memorial Service

FEB 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Smith Sr.*



February 13 at 11:06 AM

RR

“ *Roger and Martha Raines purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Gary Dean Smith Sr.*



Roger and Martha Raines - February 12 at 07:33 PM

KF

“ *Kevin, Diane, and Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Gary Dean Smith Sr.*



Kevin, Diane, and Family - February 12 at 07:27 PM

KF

“ *Kevin, Diane, and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Dean Smith Sr.*

Kevin, Diane, and Family - February 12 at 07:27 PM

TR

“ *Tommy Smith, Tommi, Chris and Mary Rudat purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gary Dean Smith Sr.*



Tommy Smith, Tommi, Chris and Mary Rudat - February 12 at 01:48 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for the loss of my dear cousin in law I take comfort that he and Linda are together with our father above.
May God encircle angels around your family bringing strength and peace during this difficult time.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Emily Spencer
Thom Swain*

Emily Spencer - February 10 at 12:18 AM