



John "Jay" Smith

December 17, 1934 - May 11, 2023

John "Jay" Smith of Shelby Township, MI passed away surrounded by loved ones on May 11, 2023 at the age of 88 years old. Beloved husband of Joan Smith (Burian). Loving father of Lisa (Bill) Vedder, and Michael. Loving grandfather of Rachel and Steven Vedder, Evan Smith, and great-grandfather of Emma and Joan. Predeceased by his parents, Leo Smith and Betty Filipa (Lousey), and his half brother Paul Parker Jr.

Jay served in the U.S. Army before he began his college education at Notre Dame University until he transferred to Michigan State University and graduated with his Bachelor's Degree. From here he began his career in broadcasting music and sports for the radio. After many years of broadcasting he went on to become a Director of Public Relations for Van Dyke and Utica school districts. Jay married his wife, Joan, on May 9, 1964 at St. John's Catholic Church in Allenton, Michigan. They went on to have two beautiful children, Lisa and Michael, who would go on to make him a proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Jay had a great love for his family and sports. When he wasn't spending his time with his family on the farm, you could find him watching the current sports game.

A Visitation will take place at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica, on Monday, May 15, 2023 from 2-8pm with a Rosary Service at 6pm. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church, 48115 Schoenherr Rd, Shelby Twp, MI 48315, on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, instate at 9:30 and Mass at 10:00am. The family asks

that memorial contributions be made out to the Autism Society of America.

Cemetery Details

West Berlin Cemetery

Allenton, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **15**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Rosary

MAY **15**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
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<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Instate

MAY **16.** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
48115 Schoenherr Road
Shelby Twp., MI 48315

Funeral Mass

MAY **16.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
48115 Schoenherr Road
Shelby Twp., MI 48315

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Jay was one of my favorite administrators at Van Dyke Schools. It was because of his PR that the millage to build and equip TEN new elementary library learning centers passed by the citizens of Warren. His down-to-earth communication won over the hearts of those who would have to pay more in their taxes. He convinced them of the long-term value for their children and community. I worked with the district's elementary library to get the learning centers operational. The world needs thousands more like him! I would have been there for his funeral had I known of his passing to New Life. My prayerful condolences to the family and gratitude to God for having known him.

Judy Holmes - November 17, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ Joan, sorry I missed the visitation I actually just saw the notice. Jay was a kind , smart, humorous man , he welcomed all of us as friends at UCS. Prayers to you and your family. God bless Jaybird!

Dorothy Busch - May 23, 2023 at 01:26 AM

JZ

“ When I learned of Jay's passing, I was filled with deep sorrow. Jay was a one of a kind filled with wit, joy, compassion, and always had that little sparkle in his eye. He had a commanding voice that was used in many UCS videos and presentations. His knowledge of sports statistics was irreputable. Joan, I still remember when the lunch bunch was there to wish Jay the best as he headed off to Texas for a medical situation that we weren't sure he would come back from - but thank God he did, and rejoined the lunch group.

Joan, just remember, Jay was a great guy, loved his family, and had lots of friends that will surely miss him going forward - I know I will.

John Zoellner - May 17, 2023 at 12:04 PM

MS

“ I was so saddened today when I found out we had lost Jay. He was such a wonderful, energetic and kind person to everyone he met. I met Jay early on during my years at Utica Community Schools. There never was a better voice or comforting sound than the "Voice of UCS." I always found him to be generous and encouraging to new and senior teachers. Regardless of where he was or who he was talking to, Jay always found time to recognize people that he knew. Jay was fun to talk to and made everyone feel special. He made us feel important; like we were more than just teachers.

I hope his family finds comfort in the happy times and many memories they can share together. He was a very special man.

Marie Smith - May 16, 2023 at 01:18 AM

PC

“ Wonderful man, kind, considerate and full of life! He made this world a better place!

Patti Connors - May 15, 2023 at 08:39 PM

JG

“ *What a great guy Jay was. As a neighbor of his I can say he was always funny and caring !!!!! Jim and Ann Gallas*

Jim Gallas - May 15, 2023 at 06:18 PM

PM

“ *Pat Monette. What a friend “Jayduel” was. He was the emcee at my retirement party 28 years ago. Also, Jay was one of the kindest and friendliest People I ever knew.!! He will really be missed*

Pat Monette - May 15, 2023 at 02:21 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of John "Jay" Smith.*



May 15, 2023 at 08:06 AM

MS

“ *There was a time when someone broke into the card clubhouse card shop and the owner Ted had to wait a day to get it fix so the next nite my Dad sat in his car overnight to make sure no one broke back in*

Michael Smith - May 13, 2023 at 11:41 AM

HC

“ *Jay befriended me when I covered my first school board meeting fresh out of journalism school. He always provided wise counsel and irreverent humor in the 50 plus years I knew him. Jay made life better for lots of people. He will be greatly missed.*

Hildy Corbett - May 13, 2023 at 08:31 AM