



Kenneth L. Smith

October 7, 1942 - July 4, 2015

Kenneth L. Smith achieved his final independence with his passing on July 4, 2015, as a result of his battle with cancer; he was 72 years old. Ken resided in the city of Ferndale, Michigan, near his birthplace of Huntington Woods, where he attended Royal Oak Dondero High School. Ken is survived by his children, Adam Smith and Tonya Riney; his son-in-law, Kevin Riney; his grandchildren, Maeve and Eamon; his sisters, Marilyn VanderSchaaf and Lorraine Snapp; six nieces and nephews, Jacob Snapp, Ben Snapp, Leah Snapp Kasten, Dietlind VanderSchaaf, Deirdre VanderSchaaf, Marielle VanderSchaaf; and their eight children.

Ken received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the then Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield, Michigan, and was the proud owner/president of Versa-Tech in Madison Heights for 25 years. Ken spent much of his free time sailing, culminating in an epic voyage from Detroit, Michigan, to St. Lucia in the British West Indies, docking his boat near his villa on the north end of the island.

Ken is described by his friends as a man who "marched to the beat of his own drummer," and frequently "cleared the path to achieve his own objectives," qualities that he bestowed upon his children and grandchildren in various ways.

A memorial service will be held August 15, in Maine, to release his ashes into the Atlantic; enabling him to rejoin the ocean where he spent much of his time.

Framed and carried with him to every place he ever worked or lived, was the excerpted quote by H.D. Thoreau, "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with success."

Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak. Please share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ Ken Smith was our friend and neighbor for more than 20 years. Many times he offered a willing hand to solve a homeowner's "fix it" project or just have a friendly visit. We shared snow removal duties on the right-of-way road and stories during frequent summer nights in our 'screen houses.' He loved walking the property with his dogs-- and the dogs were welcome and loyal companions. We miss Ken and wish his family to know that we had a good friend and neighbor in Ken.

Stan & Ellen Pasieka

Stan & Ellen Pasieka - July 29, 2015 at 11:43 AM