



Mark A. Smith

September 8, 1958 - June 19, 2023

Mark A. Smith, 64, of Kearney died June 19, 2023 at his home. Memorial services will be 10:30 am, June 28, 2023 at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation services with Pastor Steve Shanno officiating. Memorials are suggested to the Smith family, to be designated later.

Mark was born September 8, 1958 in Pueblo, Colorado to James and Della "Joan" (Gentry) Smith. He grew up in McCook and graduated from McCook High School in 1976 and then attended two years at McCook Community College. Mark excelled at wrestling in high school, and also college when he received a scholarship which brought a lifelong passion for the sport. He enjoyed watching wrestling from local teams to collegiate wrestling.

He moved to Kearney and married Virginia "Ginni" Bruce on July 13, 1984. They later divorced but remained close after that.

Mark owned and operated Independent Siding in Kearney for over 20 years and then worked as a custodian at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Mark loved being around his grandchildren. They provided the light of his life for the last 10 years.

Mark is survived by his ex-wife, Ginni Smith of Wilcox; son, Jesse and Ashley Smith of Kearney; daughters, Chelsea Smith of Kearney, Megan Smith of

Kansas City, KS; sisters, Linda Smith and Todd Aneas of McCook, NE, Laura Smith of McCook, NE, Sharon and Mark Hollars of Richland Hills, TX; brothers, Mike Smith and Nora Leestma of Gold Hills OR, Richard and Shelly Smith of Wichita, KS, Walt and Laura Smith of Bartlett, TN; and five grandchildren. Also, many nieces, nephews, cousins, and more loving family and friends are too numerous to count.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents and sister and brother-in-law Carol and Marcy Shadley.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **28**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Service



Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services - June 29, 2023
at 11:16 AM

SS

“ Mark and I were were inseparable in the Summer of 1971. We built a rope swing in a willow tree to swing out into Bolles Canyon. Stingrays and 10-speeds, sleeping bags under the stars. Fireworks, the swimming pool, late night raids on girl slumber parties. These were wonder years. Pentagon papers. The 26th Amendment. Nixon in China. Girls! Learning to navigate a wide open 4 dimensional space. I lost touch with Mark but have and will continue to cherish our time together. Cheers Mark!

Sean Suiter - June 28, 2023 at 09:16 AM

MN

“ Mike & Nora purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mark A. Smith.

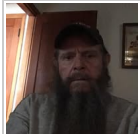


Mike & Nora - June 26, 2023 at 02:56 PM

TW

“ I grew up in McCook a few doors down from the Smith family. I spent a lot of time there as Carol was in my class. They were a very warm family and generous. I sat at their dinner table many times as a kid. They used to ring the dinner bell at meal time to bring the kids in. I remember Mark as always having a snake or spider in his pocket. He loved wild creatures and knew a lot about them. As I remember he used to enjoy chasing us girls around with his reptile pets from time to time. I'm sure he passed a lot of this information to his grand children. My condolences to his family.

Terri Woodruff - June 24, 2023 at 09:26 PM



“ good friend will be missed

Doug Bradley - June 23, 2023 at 03:54 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Mark A. Smith.



June 23, 2023 at 10:33 AM

RD

“ Mark was a custodian in my building and we greeted each other early morning many times. He was soft spoken and always gracious and thoughtful. He was hardworking and reliable and much appreciated for his attention and service to those of us in Copeland Hall. He will be missed.

Dr. Roger Davis, Professor of History

Roger P. Davis - June 22, 2023 at 02:17 PM

AM

Mark and I were wrestling teammates in high school. He was an outstanding wrestler a good friend.

Andy Monzon - June 22, 2023 at 09:34 PM

LS

I miss my brother! I think of him daily! He had the most soothing ,calming voice! He was soft spoken and didn't speak unless he had something to say. So when he did speak we listened. He always thought before he spoke! All the littles in the family lied him. He was a gentle kind teacher to many of them. And a very forgiving man! And so handsome! All my friends had a crush on him. He always made me proud. I know he loved me too. I miss him so much!

Linda L. Smith - July 24, 2025 at 11:09 AM