



Ken Smith

August 20, 1935 - November 2, 2025

Kenneth “Ken” Smith, 90, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, passed away peacefully on November 2, 2025.

Ken was born on August 20, 1935, in Buck Grove, Iowa, to Viola and Jim Smith, and grew up in Aplington. After serving his country, he returned home in 1956 and soon moved to Cedar Falls with the love of his life, Donis. Ken and Donis were married on October 5, 1956, and built a beautiful life together. They raised two children, Kim and Scott, and shared 67 wonderful years filled with love, laughter, and adventure.

Ken dedicated 37 years to the Cedar Falls Fire Department, where his hard work, courage, and sense of humor earned him lifelong friendships. A true handyman, Ken was always ready to lend a helping hand — whether it was fixing something, building something, or simply making someone smile.

Summers were best spent at Round Lake, where Ken’s talent for fishing (especially walleye and crappies) was unmatched. He taught his kids and grandkids to waterski and continued this hobby well into his 70s. He loved traveling with Donis to Florida, Alabama, Gulf Shores, South Padre, Hawaii, Alaska, and Maine, collecting memories and stories along the way. Even in his later years, Ken cherished his social time — from Friday morning coffee with friends to happy hours filled with laughter.

Above all, Ken was a devoted husband, father, grandpa, and great-grandpa. His greatest joy came from time spent with family and friends, sharing stories, teasing with a grin, and simply being together.

Ken is survived by his children, Kim (Jeff) Thompson and Scott Smith; four grandchildren, Mattie (Marty) Testroet, Kallie (Dylan) Boos, Siera (Andrew) Krogman, and Chase (Erica) Smith; ten great-grandchildren, Dylan, Brody, Brooks, Shea, Rhys, Liv, Ryker, Everly, Kendall, and Conner; and many special nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Donis; his parents; his brother, Elmer; his mother- and father-in-law; his daughter-in-law, Marcia, and his great-granddaughter, Charlie Joy.

Ken's family and friends will remember him for his big heart, steady hands, easy laughter, and the love he gave so freely. His legacy will live on in the lives he touched and the memories he leaves behind.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, November 6, 2025, at Orchard Hill Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be 4:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 5th at Richardson Funeral Service in Cedar Falls. Burial at Oak Hill Cemetery in Parkersburg.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

Parkersburg, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

Funeral Service

NOV 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Orchard Hill Church
3900 Orchard Hill Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall



“ *Christina M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ken Smith.*

Christina M. - November 05, 2025 at 05:48 PM



“ *The Behnke family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ken Smith.*

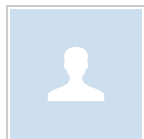


The Behnke family - November 05, 2025 at 11:36 AM



“ *Kim and Scott, I am so sorry to hear of you're dads passing and yet I know that his pain and suffering are over and he is uniting with you're mom and the Lord. I hope that can give you the peace that I felt when my own dad passed on. I was so blessed to have known them and the love, kindness and patience that they were shining examples of. They had the quiet strength that we all hope to have.*

Kim Huss Welch - November 04, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ken Smith.*



November 04, 2025 at 06:00 PM

BK

“ Kenny will be missed very much on Legacy Lane, I always enjoyed his visits, lots of times if I was setting out he would pull into my driveway and sit in his car and we would have a great visit. My deepest sympathies to Kim and Dodger.

Barb Kotz - November 04, 2025 at 03:47 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ken Smith.



November 03, 2025 at 10:12 PM

DB

“ Kenny was such a delight and kind man! It was Lindsey's idea to have him use Ralph's scooter and I took many pictures of him in it to share with my family always with a tear and smile!! Now we will gift to another to use! He was a gift and pleasure to know! Thankful he now is with your mom!! 🙏

Diana Baracz - November 03, 2025 at 07:17 PM

VM

“ I am so sorry for your loss Kim and Scot! The comforting thing about him passing is he was so ready to go and be with Jesus and your Mom! I have so many memories of serving with him on fire department and plus the 50 + years we did so many fishing trips together etc. I am so happy he is at peace and no more suffering! With Love and prayers to his family
As always. Vern

Vernon Michel - November 03, 2025 at 06:45 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your dads passing. My memory of your dad was when he found out that my first name was Leslie, middle name Jane. He called me LJ for years after that, no one else did before or since. Wink and a nod moment.

Jane Brandt - November 03, 2025 at 06:22 PM

MJ

“ Such a very kind, helpful, loving and caring friend He will be missed by many and remembered by all he knew. I loved him like an older brother. Rest In Heavenly Peace my dear friend.

Marilyn Jasper - November 03, 2025 at 03:41 PM