



James "Smitty" Smith

June 8, 1948 - March 7, 2025

James Gerald Smith, "Smitty", a 76 years old Fort Jones resident, passed away peacefully at the Madrone Hospice House in Yreka on March 7, 2025. James was born on June 8, 1948 in Minnesota to Gerald Frank and Ethel Sophia (Kallio) Smith. After high school, he joined the U.S. Army, completing a tour of duty in Vietnam. Following an honorable discharge, James worked for over 35 years as a mason and master brick layer.

Smitty was an avid bass fisherman---a self-described addict! He knew all the hot spots in Siskiyou County, and could always be found where the fish were biting. He also enjoyed motorcycles, both riding and restoring vintage choppers, and he often rode with the Midnite Riders Motorcycle Club when living in So. California. After moving to Fort Jones 15 year ago, he became a regular of the Nor-Cal Riders, and could be seen leading the motorcycles in the annual Fort Jones Christmas Parade.

He was always positive, cheerful, and easy going with a great sense of humor and magnetic personality. Smitty was a very loyal, kind-hearted, and generous friend to all that knew him.

James is predeceased by his parents and his brother, Robert Allen Smith. He leaves behind his sister, Kathleen Braithwaite of Prescott, Arizona and many, many friends.

Services are pending.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Smitty was my hunting buddy, my fishing buddy and my Best Friend we shared my Good times together in Glendora Ca Rest in Peace my Brother

Joe Gullotta - April 26, 2025 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ Smitty sure was a great guy ! He was a great friend to my grandfather, who also passed away last year. Smitty will never be forgotten and in the heads of me and my husband. We will miss seeing him at 5marys when we come to town to visit . Rest in Peace Smitty ❤️

Heather Mansukhani - April 04, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Smitty was a great guy. He was good friends with my dad Len Miller.I didn't no Smitty well but liked that he was good to my dad. RIP Smitty

Debbie Brannan - April 04, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Smitty was a genuine great guy. Loved chatting with him at 5 Mary's.

Jim Main - March 20, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Smitty is the brother of our precious friend, Kathy. She always had a positive thing to say about her brother and looked forward to her visits. Rest in peace Smitty. You are loved deeply and well.

Lori Perez - March 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Every time I walked into Five Mary's in Fort Jones California, Smitty would always be there to hold the door open for me and greet me with a nice "Hello, how are you?" Such a wonderful person. Fly high Smitty. Rip 🦋💜



Emilee Holland - March 18, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for James "Smitty" Smith - March 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM