



Dennis L. Smith

December 23, 1948 - November 17, 2015

Dennis L. Smith, age 66, of Arnolds Park, passed away November 17, 2015, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. Dennis was born on December 23, 1948, in Spencer, IA, to John and Alice (Barrett) Smith.

He attended high school in Milford, graduating in 1967. He was very active in all of the high school sports. He then went on to Northwest Missouri State, graduating in 1971. He taught math for Sabula, YJB, and Spirit Lake, before retiring in 2005. Dennis enjoyed golfing and playing cards.

Dennis is survived by one sister, Shirley (Jerry) Sporrer, of Tempe, AZ; one brother, John Smith, of Sun City, AZ; six nieces; one nephew; sister-in-law, Marriane Smith, of Fargo, ND; and many grand nieces and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Larry Smith.

A memorial visitation will be held from 4:00-7:00 P.M., on Tuesday, November 24, 2015, at the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Dennis' name.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Ellen Murphy White - November 30, 2015 at 03:25 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Haroldovermann - November 23, 2015 at 09:26 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

November 23, 2015 at 09:24 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Haro - November 23, 2015 at 09:23 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

HArold - November 23, 2015 at 09:22 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

HArold - November 23, 2015 at 09:22 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

HArold - November 23, 2015 at 09:22 PM

HA

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

HAroid - November 23, 2015 at 09:22 PM

HA

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

HAroid - November 23, 2015 at 09:22 PM

JT

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Jean Thompson - November 22, 2015 at 04:57 PM

JN

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Jessica Nikkel - November 22, 2015 at 03:27 PM

HH

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Harlan habben - November 22, 2015 at 08:57 AM

SS

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Spirit Lake High School - November 21, 2015 at 11:22 PM

SP

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Steve Pearson - November 21, 2015 at 11:18 PM

JF

“ A friend of many years in many venues. Always a laugh & a smile.
Thanks for touching so many lives.

Jim Fliss - November 21, 2015 at 08:03 PM

AV

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Amy VanDerSluis - November 21, 2015 at 08:22 AM

MB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Marcy Miller Bosch - November 21, 2015 at 08:00 AM

DN

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Dave Nielsen - November 20, 2015 at 07:31 PM

GB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Gordy and Bette Benit - November 20, 2015 at 04:16 PM

DN

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Dick Nervig - November 20, 2015 at 03:24 PM

AW

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Angie Wills - November 20, 2015 at 02:04 PM

DT

“ I graduated in the Class of 67 along with Denny. We played football and baseball together and became good friends. Denny excelled at all the sports he participated in. He was a great pitcher and I remember him hitting a home run that probably would have been out of the park in most major league parks. He was also a math wiz and obviously was good in all subjects in school. He taught me how to play golf when we were freshmen in high school and afterward played many rounds at Woodlyn Hills. I rarely beat him , only when he was having an off day on the course. Although we only saw each other at class reunions and occasionally ran into each other around the lakes area in recent years, I always considered us to be good friends. I was honored to have shared times with him. He was an easy person to be with. RIP, Denny.

Don Trebbien - November 20, 2015 at 08:45 AM

CP

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Cory Piper-Hauswirth - November 19, 2015 at 10:47 PM

VM

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Vicki Matuska - November 19, 2015 at 09:34 PM

JW

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Justin Weidman - November 19, 2015 at 09:07 PM

SC

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Steve & Jo Currell - November 19, 2015 at 07:01 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

November 19, 2015 at 07:00 PM



“ *Spending the summers at my grandmas with my Uncle Denny are some of my fondest memories growing up. From the many trips to Arnold's Park where he taught me Skee ball and as a kid being amazing at how awesome he was at the game, to the watching of a scary movie and getting to laughing so hard with his infectious laugh. He was a jovial person who always had a smile and a laugh whenever you were around. I'll miss you Uncle Denny. Rest in Peace.*

Stacy Sporrer Serritella - November 19, 2015 at 06:54 PM



“ *I had the privilege of working with Denny for a number of years. He was always willing to help out students and inspired many. One of the things I truly appreciated about him was his willingness to come back to tutor students in his retirement out of the goodness of his heart. Denny was a very kind and caring person to both the students and staff. I can still see him laughing so hard he could hardly get through some his jokes he told in some of the "old days"...a true pleasure and honor to have known him.*

Elaine Greer - November 19, 2015 at 05:53 PM



“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Jessica Wallace - November 19, 2015 at 03:32 PM

JB

“ I was one of Mr. Smith's numerous former students, and while I didn't go into engineering or teaching, or even do well in his classes sometimes, I can honestly say he was a great math teacher. I didn't realize it until taking algebra courses in college and the teachers didn't seem to explain things as well as he did. I almost wrote him a letter saying thank you while in college, but never got around to it. I wish I had. One memory is he nominated me for the monthly Most Improved list once (or whatever it was called exactly)! :) R.I.P. Mr. Smith, you left an impression on a lot of people!

Justin Brockshus - November 19, 2015 at 09:41 AM

KB

“ Dennis L. Smith

Kathy Batman - November 19, 2015 at 06:56 AM

BF

“ Dennis L. Smith

Bruce farmer - November 18, 2015 at 10:43 PM

KF

“ Dennis L. Smith

Kristi Fisher - November 18, 2015 at 10:17 PM

SK

“ Dennis L. Smith

Stacey Estes Klein - November 18, 2015 at 10:16 PM

SM

“ Dennis L. Smith

Susan McGuire - November 18, 2015 at 09:53 PM

DE

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Dianne Hickerson Elton - November 18, 2015 at 09:32 PM

PS

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Phil Severtson - November 18, 2015 at 09:31 PM

DG

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Douglas George - November 18, 2015 at 08:43 PM

MM

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Mary McGuire - November 18, 2015 at 08:25 PM

AR

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Amanda Rickert - November 18, 2015 at 07:40 PM

PB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Paul Benson - November 18, 2015 at 07:03 PM

MC

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Melissa Cantrell - November 18, 2015 at 06:46 PM

KC

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Kathy Christopherson - November 18, 2015 at 06:34 PM

CP

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Cheri Poock - November 18, 2015 at 06:03 PM

BK

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Bob and Deanna Kuiper - November 18, 2015 at 05:53 PM

BR

“ *I wonder how many of Mr. Smith's former students became engineers thanks to his math teaching abilities? Thank you for teaching me calculus and trig, Mr. Smith--I survived college and grad school because you taught me well.*

Barbara Hamer Ressler - November 18, 2015 at 05:26 PM

BR

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Barbara Hamer Ressler - November 18, 2015 at 05:17 PM

KC

“ *I came to know Dennis as our neighbor. We became close serving on the board of our HOA. He always made me laugh and was a pleasure to work with and be around. My heart is broken! He will be missed by so many. Our deepest condolences to his brother John, sister and family. God Bless You!*

Kathy & John Christopherson - November 18, 2015 at 04:56 PM

BR

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Barry and Robert - November 18, 2015 at 03:54 PM



“ *Thinking of you John and your family.your Sun City Friends Barry Lord and Robert Angel*

November 18, 2015 at 03:52 PM

AB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Aaron Barriage - November 18, 2015 at 03:40 PM

JW

“ *Denny & I played golf together at Brooks for the last several years. He always welcomed me back in June and made sure that I was included in 'the game'. I always enjoyed it when an old student would see "Mr. Smith"... You could tell that he made an impact in their life. A special man ! I will miss him.*

John Whitaker - November 18, 2015 at 02:37 PM

JW

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

John Whitaker - November 18, 2015 at 02:25 PM

JJ

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Jeff Jahn - November 18, 2015 at 02:08 PM

NW

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Nancy winter - November 18, 2015 at 12:42 PM

RG

“ *Spent a number of years coaching football at SLHS with "Smitty" and we had some great time. My boys also enjoyed having him as a teacher. I'll sure miss having him as a partner in the schoolmasters golf tournament. He carried our team on his shoulders for sure! I'll also miss that friendly greeting he always had for me and my boys whenever we would see him. Rest in peace good friend.*

Randy Graff - November 18, 2015 at 12:29 PM

JN

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Jeff Newell - November 18, 2015 at 12:05 PM

JB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Jeremy Boley - November 18, 2015 at 11:35 AM

DF

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Dianne & Steve Franker - November 18, 2015 at 10:59 AM

MJ

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Michelle Farmer Janasko - November 18, 2015 at 10:25 AM

MW

“ I worked with Denny for 10 years as his principal. Denny was one of those people you always knew would go the extra mile. He was a true professional.

Mark Wittmer - November 18, 2015 at 09:43 AM

CB

“ Dennis L. Smith

Chelsey Bruhns - November 18, 2015 at 09:42 AM

SD

“ Had Denny as a teacher in school. He was a very kind man. I also played racquetball with him. He sure enjoyed life and laughter. Hugs to the Smith family.

Sally Christensen DeLoss - November 18, 2015 at 08:42 AM

DN

“ Dennis L. Smith

David & Julie Nodland - November 18, 2015 at 08:31 AM

SR

“ Dennis L. Smith

Steve Ratzlaff - November 18, 2015 at 07:00 AM

MB

“ Dennis L. Smith

Missey Brown - November 18, 2015 at 06:54 AM

TS

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Trudy Bak Schumacher - November 18, 2015 at 06:36 AM

TL

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Tina Lugo - November 18, 2015 at 06:28 AM

TL

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Tina Lugo - November 18, 2015 at 06:28 AM

TP

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Travis Pedley - November 18, 2015 at 05:58 AM

KB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Krystal bainbridge - November 18, 2015 at 05:51 AM

TW

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Tracee (Kroese) Wellik - November 18, 2015 at 01:22 AM

KD

“ I count myself very fortunate to have had Mr. Smith for multiple years while at Spirit Lake High School and always considered him among my favorite teachers. His straightforward way of teaching and the expectations he set for his students resonated tremendously with me. Mr. Smith was kind and engaging. He will be missed.

Kim Distin - November 18, 2015 at 12:02 AM

LB

“ Dennis L. Smith

Laura Tollefson Bovard - November 18, 2015 at 12:01 AM

DD

“ Dennis you will be truly missed. I haven't seen you in years, but I will always remember all the fun times we had. From the days when you worked for my parents at the miniature golf course in the amusement park to the crazy times at Emerald Hills, you were always the life of the party. Rest in peace my friend!!

Donna Doss-Kawana - November 17, 2015 at 11:23 PM

JG

“ Dennis L. Smith

Jason Griffin - November 17, 2015 at 11:11 PM

KD

“ Dennis L. Smith

Kim Distin - November 17, 2015 at 11:08 PM

JP

“ Dennis is a classmate of mine from grade school to graduation in 1967" He had a wonderful personality and. Smile . You will be missed . Prayers to your family

JoAnn Stinogel Pedersen - November 17, 2015 at 10:53 PM

EG

“ I grew to love Mr. Smith as one of his students. He had the ability to "breakthrough" to students possessing various aptitudes and interest levels in math. Not an easy feat! Whether through athletics, schoolwork, motorcycles, or shooting the breeze, he had enjoyable conversation to share with all. He will be missed, but I am confident the hundreds of students he mentored will carry on his many admirable qualities.

Ellen Goerss - November 17, 2015 at 10:42 PM

LS

“ Dennis L. Smith

Laura ingwersen Slawson - November 17, 2015 at 10:41 PM

KF

“ Smitty you will truly be missed. The golf course will not be the same without your presence there. Whether I was playing with you or just passing by on a mower, it just won't be the same out there. Gonna miss you pal. See you on the other side.

Ken Farmer - November 17, 2015 at 10:37 PM

BK

“ Dennis L. Smith

BB Keune - November 17, 2015 at 10:29 PM

EH

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Emilee Hanson - November 17, 2015 at 10:26 PM

AC

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Amanda Chilson - November 17, 2015 at 09:51 PM

JB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

John Bramblett - November 17, 2015 at 09:45 PM

MS

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Mark Stover - November 17, 2015 at 09:37 PM

NM

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Norm Meinking - November 17, 2015 at 09:30 PM

ST

“ *I love math and science in large part due to excellent teachers at SLHS like Denny Smith. He will always be admired and will be greatly missed!*

Sara Sybesma Tolsma - November 17, 2015 at 09:28 PM

KM

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Kristi Hamer Maricle - November 17, 2015 at 09:27 PM

SH

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Sean Higgins - November 17, 2015 at 09:25 PM

HZ

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Holli Zimmerman - November 17, 2015 at 09:20 PM

LJ

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Larry/mary Ann Jansen - November 17, 2015 at 09:18 PM

MH

“ *Denny will be missed. He was such a passionate teacher and coach. I enjoyed seeing and talking to him many years after high school. He was always a kind and caring person.*

Mark hickerson - November 17, 2015 at 09:12 PM

SH

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Sheryl and Hank Hall - November 17, 2015 at 09:05 PM

MP

“ Dennis was our friend and neighbor. A more caring or honorable man would be hard to find. From tutoring struggling students in math to volunteering his time to be treasure of our HOA to running errands for those that needed help, he was always there. We enjoyed our evenings on the patio with the neighbors laughing at his stories. Our lives were enhanced for having been blessed with his friendship and having known him. May his family take comfort in knowing how special he was and how his life touched and impacted those who knew him. Mary and Phil Partello

Mary Partello - November 17, 2015 at 08:57 PM

KK

“ Denny was an awesome man, educator, and had a smile for everyone. He devoted his life to the educaton of so many students. Denny will long be remembered for his belief in the goodness of our young people.

Karen Krieger - November 17, 2015 at 08:56 PM

AS

“ Dennis L. Smith

Amy Schweizer - November 17, 2015 at 08:53 PM

KP

“ Dennis L. Smith

Kathy (wee) Petersen - November 17, 2015 at 08:51 PM

BS

“ Dennis L. Smith

Becky Stoll - November 17, 2015 at 08:45 PM

BS

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Becky Stoll - November 17, 2015 at 08:45 PM

SS

“ *Denny was a fun teacher with a unique style. I really enjoyed being in his class. It was even more fun seeing him as an adult out and about. He transitioned with all of us well. I'll miss seeing him at McKeen's!!*

Susan Parriott Spalding - November 17, 2015 at 08:40 PM

E(

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Emily Chisholm (Thomsen) - November 17, 2015 at 08:34 PM

HM

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Hayley Moeller - November 17, 2015 at 08:31 PM

HM

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Hayley Moeller - November 17, 2015 at 08:31 PM

MB

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Marcia Berkness - November 17, 2015 at 08:30 PM

RT

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Robert Tvedte - November 17, 2015 at 08:15 PM

MT

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Marcy Toews - November 17, 2015 at 08:06 PM

MT

“ *Dennis L. Smith*

Marcy Toews - November 17, 2015 at 08:06 PM

CK

“ *Denny, rest in peace and will always remember our good times on the football field.*

Cory Krieger - November 17, 2015 at 08:02 PM

DD

“ *Denny was a long time family friend. He always had a kind word, wonderful laugh, and great outlook! What an amazing pool player too! Had fun listening to him and other card players at Tweeters. You will be missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with the family!*

Diane & Ken Daws - November 17, 2015 at 07:49 PM

PR

“ *Denny was one of the best teachers I have known. Both of my daughters had him and learned not only math from him but also how to have a good time in life. I saw Denny when he was at the SL High School tutoring students and I was subbing. Denny always had that big smile and you could hear his laughter down the hallway. I will miss him. He is at peace.*

Peggy Rick - November 17, 2015 at 06:39 PM

DF

“ Our Smith family has lost one of the BEST gigglers EVER, a sweet man, great educator, coach, & friend to many in the lakes area. We'll all miss him....peace to you, cousin Denny.

Dianne & Steve Franker - November 17, 2015 at 04:14 PM

BS

“ Denny was a great educator. My son had a great respect for him. And loves math to this day because of his teaching. May God make more teachers to fill his shoes.

Bob and Kate Shaw - November 17, 2015 at 04:05 PM

BS

“ Dennis L. Smith

Bob and Kate Shaw - November 17, 2015 at 03:59 PM

AM

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Smith. He was one of the most understanding teachers I ever had and the person that made me love math. The world could use more people like him.

Amber - November 17, 2015 at 03:18 PM

LT

“ To the Smith family -- So sorry to hear of Denny's passing. Great friend, great teacher, & always kind. I had heard that he still tutored kids in math for free. Had many laughs with Denny -- he will be missed. Hope he's playing golf & cards in heaven. Prayers to the family!

Lacie & Terry Thrall - November 17, 2015 at 03:04 PM

KC

“ Talk about one of the great laughs! When Denny would get to laughing, it was the best! :) He was full of stories, and the more excited he got, the higher his voice got! Lots of very good memories, lots of rounds on the golf course with him and stories afterward. I'm very sad that we've lost him so early....

Kirt Carstens - November 17, 2015 at 02:43 PM

SS

“ Dennis was a true friend and an inspiration to many. His sense of humor was unique and wonderful and will never be forgotten and neither will he.

Stan and Rhea Sybesma - November 17, 2015 at 01:12 PM