



Richard Paul Smith

May 9, 1959 - January 31, 2023

Richard Paul Smith, 63 of Houston passed away Tuesday, January 31, 2023 after a brief but serious encounter with cancer. Richard was born May 9, 1959 in Midland, Michigan to Kenneth Selwyn Smith and Clara Kaczynski Smith. He is survived by his sister Sharon (Smith) Gower and husband John; his brother, Mark Smith and wife Kathy and their daughter Erin Behrmann and husband Michael and their children, Brendan and Isla; son Andrew Smith, son Jeffrey Smith and wife Charlotte; and daughter Claire Smith. Richard is also survived by many, many good friends, extended family and dear cousins Shirley Jones, Tammy Wilhoyte and husband Jim, Ted Thompson, Trafta and David O'Bryan and their daughter Dana Peters and husband Todd and son Nathan O'Bryan. Richard was a devoted son to his Mother and Father and helped them out significantly as they aged.

Growing up in the small town of Auburn, Michigan, he attended Auburn Area Catholic grade school and graduated from Western High School in the class of 1977. He began his working career in the Bay City, Michigan District Court as a court clerk after graduating high school. At the age of 21, Richard migrated to Houston, Texas and found a job in the District Court of Harris County Texas working for Judge Ruby Sondock. He pursued a college degree in the evenings and earned his BBA degree from The University of Houston – Downtown Campus. Richard changed careers to Human Resource Management after graduating from UH specializing in compensation policy

and practices. He worked for multinational companies such as Chase Bank, Schlumberger, Saudi Aramco and finally Valaris until his death.

Richard was a longtime member of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston where he had a large network of very good friends. He enjoyed biking, walking and trying to keep himself in good shape. He had a huge heart, always willing to give a friend a hand or engage in conversation. He especially loved helping people in making decisions to find the best “deal” on major purchases such as a new car, appliance or cell phone. Evening TV shows were a ritual, and he especially loved the Hallmark channel while sitting in his living room recliner. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

The Smith family will receive friends and family Thursday, February 9, 2023 from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77079. Holy Rosary and a short prayer service will begin at 7:00 PM followed by words from friends and all. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10:30 AM at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079. A reception in the Church facilities with a light lunch and refreshments will be held immediately after the Funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers the family prefers contributions in Richard’s memory to the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, St John Vianney Catholic Church or Memorial Trees.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Rosary

FEB **9**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

FEB **10**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Reception to Follow Service

FEB 10 (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Paul Smith*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Richard Paul Smith*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Richard Paul Smith*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Richard Paul Smith*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *As I often told Richard, I could never thank him enough for being a a supportive, helpful and caring friend to my precious sister, Ruby Sondock.
Rest in peace, sweet friend.
Jackie M.*

Jackie M - February 09, 2023 at 05:10 PM



“ 133 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



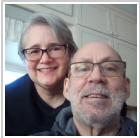
Detting Funeral Home - February 07, 2023 at 01:08 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Smith Family. Richard was a very dear friend and was considered part of our family. He will be greatly missed. We will cherish some special memories, especially our hikes in Estes Park and then going into town to eat ice cream topped with lots of M&Ms.*

Tish and Thomas

Tish Tafolla - February 04, 2023 at 03:49 PM



“ *Smith Family,*

We wanted to let you know we've been thinking about you and your family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Steve and Barb Kaczynski

Steve Kaczynski - February 04, 2023 at 10:34 AM

JE

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Richard's family and friends in this difficult time. Prayers for peace and guidance, May the Lord's Spirit be with you all in this time of grievance, Love Dave and Jeanette (Gower) Kistler.*

jeanettekistler@gmail.com - February 03, 2023 at 09:24 PM