



David B. Smith

March 25, 1962 - July 12, 2020

David Byron Smith, 58, formerly of Bethel Park, passed peacefully on Sunday evening, July 12, 2020 at ManorCare Whitehall in Pittsburgh.

Born in Red Bank, New Jersey on March 25, 1962, he was the son of the late R. Byron Smith and Mary Ellen Smith who currently resides in Marietta, Georgia.

David was born with a seizure disorder and encephalitis that was causing potential life ending brain damage. When he was 3 years old, he endured his 11th brain operation, in which a Hemispherectomy was performed. It was a last resort and, still true today, extremely rare. With the love and support of his family, amazing doctors, supportive caregivers and teachers, David surpassed expectations and became a living miracle. With an always kind and loving disposition, he exuded a calming, compassionate and positive manner that was truly contagious.

David attended The Pathfinder School for exceptional children in Bethel Park, until he was 21 years old. Afterward, he worked in sheltered workshops and attended day programs throughout the Pittsburgh area.

In 1986, David moved into his first home away from home. He moved into independent group home for disabled adults called Southwinds. Southwinds was lovingly created by a group of mothers who had adult children ready for more independence. One of those moms was David's very own mother. He thrived having amazing roommates, loving staff and the comradery of "being on his own".

With the onset of some major health issues, it was necessary for David to leave Southwinds in 2019 and make his new home at ManorCare-Whitehall. The staff quickly fell in love with him and new friendships were made.

David loved all Pittsburgh sport teams, especially the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was so excited to receive an autographed jersey, football, and photo of Ben Roethlisberger from the Pittsburgh Steelers for his 50th birthday. As a child, he loved going camping with his family. He traveled to dozens of states and visited many wonder places. One of his favorites was a surprise trip to Disney World with his brother, Bruce. After that, they created their own elite duo that they called "The Brothers". Not to make his sister feel left out, he lovingly referred to her as his "favorite sister". In spite of so much brain trauma, David had a quick wit and a corny sense of humor. He was always smiling, he always said "please" and "thank you" and had the ability to make you view the world through rose colored glasses. His passion for life and his love of his family was undeniable.

His survivors include his mother, Mary Ellen Smith; his brother, Bruce Bradford Smith of Sandy Springs, Georgia; his sister Barbara Ellen Smith Funk, and her husband Eric, Sr. and their children Jessica and Eric, Jr. of Shipperville.

David is also survived by his close family friend and neighbor, Chris Van Dyke and his wife, Heidi, of Bethel Park.

He was preceded in death by his father, R. Byron Smith.

The Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion is handling arrangements.

There will be no public services at this time. When it is safe for social gatherings, a Celebration of Life will be announced.

The family requests that any desired gift of love be made through an online donation to Southwinds, Inc. (southwindsinc.org) so that David's friends may continue to live their lives filled with independence, dignity and inclusion.

Cemetery Details

Clarion Cemetery

Clarion, PA

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

SF

“ David B. Smith was (from my first meeting more than a quarter of a century ago) a consistent beacon of light in this world. My family was blessed to see him often as we shared many birthdays and other holidays together with the "Clarion" Funks. David always engaged lovingly with my parents, my children and the entire family. It was a loss to us when he became unable to travel to Clarion for family gatherings. He will be continually missed. Blessings to all of his family who worked tirelessly and lovingly to give him every opportunity to shine and advance. We loved David very much.

Shawn, Anne, Rebekah and John

Shawn Funk - July 22, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ "The Brothers" have been temporarily physically separated but he now has only established a bigger place in my heart. David taught me so much. So unconditionally loved me & brought me joy with his uplifting spirit & smile. It is his turn now to be the big brother & when it is my time, I know he & Dad will be there with many of my other lost loved ones with open arms to greet me. I can't wait to hear what stories he'll have to share with me then.



Bruce Smith - July 15, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of David B. Smith.*



July 14, 2020 at 07:38 PM

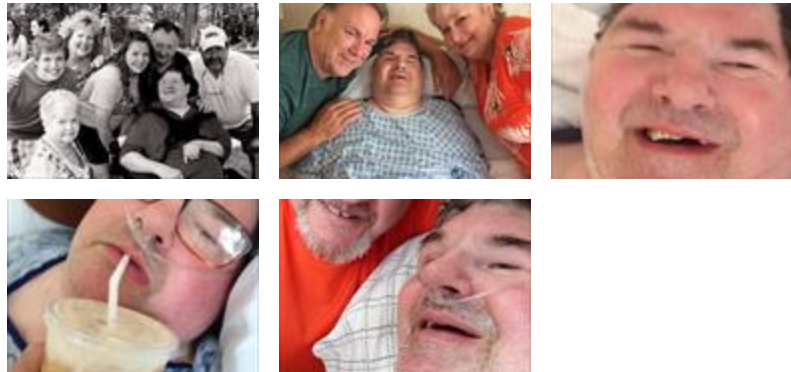


“ *David was a sweet soul an amazing person. He and my sister Barb (also a Southwinds resident) had a very special friendship. She is very heart broken to loss her friend. I always enjoyed spending time talking with him when visiting, loved to tease him about the Steelers, especially when they were not doing well. Rest in peace my friend. We an Barb will miss you, an never forget you.*

Debbie Ryan Vogel - July 14, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ *56 files added to the album Memories Album*



Barb Smith Funk - July 14, 2020 at 01:28 AM