



Brian Edward Smith

April 24, 1958 - May 4, 2026

Brian Edward Smith, aged 68 of Elkhorn, NE. Passed away on May 4, 2026. Born on April 24, 1958 in Geneva, Illinois to Edward and Olga (Podziabany) Smith. Brian was known for his sense of humor, compassion and involvement in his kids' activities in which coaching baseball was a big part. He loved the Chicago Cubs and was a lifelong fan, especially excited to see them win the 2016 world series.

Brian was very involved in school activities, which included playing trumpet in band and jazz band, the tennis team and team manager for the basketball team. During his high school years, Brian also became involved with Geneva ESDA (emergency services and disaster agency) where he was the weather officer. Part of his duties were to train weather spotters, which he continued with throughout his career.

He graduated from Geneva H.S. in 1976 and continued his education at Northern Illinois University in De Kalb, Illinois. Earning his B.S. in meteorology in 1980 and spending many hours in the student weather office, honing his skills.

He then studied and worked as a research meteorologist at University of Chicago under the guidance of Dr. T. Theodore Fujita, world renowned tornado expert and for whom the tornado F scale is named after. Brian earned

his master's degree in 1986. During this time, he gained a lot of knowledge and studied tornado climatology, learned how to conduct aerial and ground tornado damage surveys.

On May 7, 1988 Brian and Paula were married and together they raised Colin (1989), Brendan (1991), Alec (1994), and Ian (1999).

Shortly after their marriage, Brian received word that he had been hired for a meteorologist position in Kansas City, Missouri. Brian worked in the sels unit in Kansas City for 6 years and then was hired as the warning coordination meteorologist in Omaha (Valley).

During his career he surveyed and mapped many tornados and downburst storms for which he received a bronze medal for superior federal service. The family traveled to Washington D.C. in 1998 to see Brian receive this prestigious award.

Brian also was instrumental in starting a program at the Fermilab facility in Batavia, Illinois. He partnered with tom skilling, a WGN-Chicago TV weatherman and started a free weather seminar. They enlisted the help of many other meteorologists and experts to impart weather spotting information to the public for free.

As the kids grew up and moved on in their careers, we were blessed with two Grandchildren Samuel and Eloise. Many memories were made in Seattle when Grandpa & Grandma went out to visit. We also welcomed Brendan's wife, Rachel and granddog, Georgia who reside in Kansas City, Missouri.

Along with a passion for the weather, Brian also loved trains and airplanes. Many a train museum and airshow was attended with the family. He also built a Lionel train layout in the basement and loved to build scale model airplanes

and enjoyed the friendships he made in the Omaha IPMS Chapter (international plastic Modelers society). He continued playing the trumpet throughout his life and spent many hours playing along to Herb Alpert records. He was also a member of the Blair community band and jazz band.

Brian is survived by his loving spouse of 38 years, Paula; Sons, Colin, Brendan, Alec, Ian and grandchildren, Samuel and Eloise Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward (Ted) and Olga Smith. His sister, Kathy and her husband, Paul Rhoads.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **20**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethany Lutheran Church
4200 N 204th Street
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Celebration of Life Service

MAY **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethany Lutheran Church
4200 N 204th Street
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Brian Edward Smith*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - May 19 at 09:18 AM

PF

“ *Paul Fike purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Brian Edward Smith.*



Paul Fike - May 18 at 10:30 PM

B(

“ *Boeing Test Ops Training Team (TOTT) purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Brian Edward Smith.*



Boeing Test Ops Training Team (TOTT) - May 18 at 03:36 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brian Edward Smith.*



May 17 at 01:38 PM



“ *Jake and Jen purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Brian Edward Smith.*



Jake and Jen - May 15 at 03:58 AM



“ *Jake and Jen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brian Edward Smith.*

Jake and Jen - May 15 at 03:58 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear of Brians illness and passing. Paula our love and prayers are with you and the family. Tim & I have wonderful memories of you and Brian as you started dating, then your beautiful wedding and the blessings of your children. Our deepest sincere condolences.*

Tim & Kelly

Kelly Madden - May 13 at 10:30 PM

KM

“ Kelly M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brian Edward Smith.

Kelly M. - May 13 at 10:22 PM

YC

“ Your Flight Test Community purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Brian Edward Smith.



Your Flight Test Community - May 13 at 04:04 PM

KN

“ Mr. Smith, Brian, was always such a kind, loving and caring person. He always knew how to make you smile... he will be missed.
Sincerely, Kristina & Lauren Niemeyer

Kristina Niemeyer - May 11 at 08:36 PM

RS

“ I first met Brian in 2022 at the IPMS/USA National Convention in Omaha, NE. I was without a car at the event and Brian, although I was just a faceless Facebook post, volunteered to pick me up so I could attend a barbecue at the SAC Museum in Ashland. By the end of the evening Brian and I had become friends.

I too build scale models, used to play the trumpet and am also a family man. Brian and I both also loved space exploration so our bond became very secure.

My deepest condolences to you Paula, your sons and the rest of your family at Brian's loss. He was good man – you know that – and I am sad that I did not know him longer. His goodness, kindness and friendship will be missed by many people.



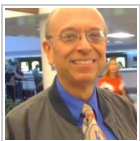
Robert Schorry - May 10 at 02:35 PM

DF

“ Dr. Greg Forbes purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Brian Edward Smith.



Dr. Greg Forbes - May 06 at 08:00 PM



“ My condolences to Brian's family and friends. He followed me at The University of Chicago under Fujita, but I had the pleasure of interacting with him many times over the years. He was a great guy and meteorologist. Greg Forbes

Greg Forbes - May 06 at 06:58 PM

BA

“ Sending my love and prayers to the Smith Family ❤️🙏

Betty Arnold - May 06 at 06:06 PM

CM

“ Brian was the instructor of my first storm spotter class and almost every one I have taken over the years. I had the privilege to have him instruct my class again last year and as soon as I seen his name as the instructor I was honored to be there. His knowledge, teaching style, and sense of humor made the classes enjoyable. He will definitely be missed.

Cody Meredith - May 05 at 10:42 PM

PL

“ My deepest condolences to Paula, and her family. I have so many fond memories of Brian and will cherish them and hold them close. Sending hugs and love.



paula levin - May 05 at 09:35 PM

BA

Sending my love and prayers to the Smith Family 🙏❤️

Betty Arnold - May 06 at 06:02 PM

SJ

Sending heart felt love and support to the Smith family. Emily, Kurt, and Sarah Jaeger.

sarah jaeger - May 12 at 01:06 PM

JF

Paula and family, we are so sorry to learn of Brian passing, it was such a pleasure having our boys grow up together and have Brian share his love with them in scouting, trains, and weather!

Jan & Gordon Fritsch

Jan Fritsch - May 20 at 12:11 PM