



Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith

November 24, 1965 - December 18, 2025

Jeff W. Smith was born in Fremont, Nebraska on November 24, 1965, to Colette and Neil Smith. His family lived in rural Valley and welcomed a sister in 1971, Angela Dawn. He attended grade school at the rural country school in Valley. They then moved to North Platte, NE, where he played basketball and was very successful as a freshman and sophomore. His family then moved to Millard, NE, where he attended Millard North, and continued his basketball career, where he was awarded "most made free throws in a season." Jeff graduated from Millard North High School in 1984. Stories of his high school career live on and on. His favorite was stealing a full-size iron horse from Skyline and placing it in the front yard of Millard North High School!

Jeff went to college at Iowa Lakes Community College from 1984-1986 and played on the basketball and baseball teams and met his wife of nearly 40 years. Jeff and Judy Gilley were happily married on July 19, 1986. They made their first home in Omaha. Jeff worked for Custom Lawns of Omaha and coached kids from the YMCA. He also continued to play pick-up basketball games with "The Camelot Crew" friends he still has today. He injured his knee, which sidelined him from playing basketball.

On June 3, 1992, he welcomed his first child, Kelsey May Smith. Jeff then began working for Teeters Silk Flowers covering the Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri territory for them. He won "salesman of the year"-people always said he could sell anything to anyone.

The family then moved to Waterloo, where they welcomed their son, Nathan

Wade Smith, on April 8, 1995.

Jeff became involved in Waterloo Fire Department and was voted to be the Assistant Fire Chief. He enjoyed his time in the fire department and made some life-long friends.

Jeff was such a good father, not wanting to miss anything the kids were involved in, so he started a new job at the Douglas County Sheriff's office. The family then moved to a farm north of Valley where they raised cows for the kids to show in 4-H. Jeff became Fire Chief for the Valley Fire Department. He competed with the fire department on several weekends at various city days doing water fights. Some very good times were had, and friends were made at these events.

Jeff started coaching his own children in basketball, baseball, and football. He loved to teach the different sports and was such a proud and involved father. He continued to follow all the kids he coached and looked forward to hearing of their success. As his kids were growing up and he was still working for the Sheriff's office, he would make the report from SAT COM on Santa's journey on Christmas Eve. Kelsey and Nate loved listening to him.

In June 2008, the family's home was hit by a tornado, and the house was destroyed. They then moved to a rental for a year, renting from a dear family friend who stepped up and helped Jeff's family. They then found their current home on an acreage outside of Waterloo.

Jeff left the Sheriff's office to work for Prospect Hill Cemetery, and assist at Reichmuth Funeral Home as the groundsman, where he worked for 20 plus years.

Jeff was most proud of his children, Kelsey and Nathan. He would brag about them to anyone who would listen. He enjoyed working with cows and helping Nathan with haying season.

He loved discussing sports with everyone, but especially with his son, Nate. He enjoyed going to any sporting events, and loved cheering for the Georgia Bulldogs, Nebraska Huskers, Kansas City Chiefs, Millard North Mustangs, and Douglas County West teams. He enjoyed working the gate at football

games and scorebook at basketball games for DC West. He also loved to go watch Iowa Western Reivers play (always hoping for a fight!). He loved westerns and would argue all day long that John Wayne was the best cowboy. He watched The Andy Griffith Show every day and loved Charlie Brown shows.

Tragedy struck the family in 2014 when they lost their daughter, Kelsey May, to cancer. Jeff always cherished his family and would do anything for any one of them, and he enjoyed making them smile. He never met someone he couldn't start a conversation with and had a memory that wouldn't fail. Jeff loved his pups, his cows, and his family. He loved hard and faithfully.

Jeff passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at the Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha, NE at the age of 60 years and 24 days. He was preceded in death by his daughter Kelsey, father Neil, and Pops Ron Wiggins. Jeff is survived by his wife Judy, son Nathan and his fiancée Kasey, her son Kayson, and a grandchild on the way, his mom Colette Wiggins, sister and brother-in-law Angie and Jose Zuniga, mother-in-law Janice Gilley, brother-in-law Jeff & Juanita Gilley, sisters-in-law Jackie & Mark Gannon and Jody & Rick Fox, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Family will receive friends

DEC **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

A lunch reception will follow the burial at Reichmuth Funeral Home

Tribute Wall



“ Julie M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Julie M. - December 22, 2025 at 05:34 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



December 22, 2025 at 04:15 PM



“ DC West Boys Basketball purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



DC West Boys Basketball - December 22, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ DC West Boys Basketball planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

DC West Boys Basketball - December 22, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.*



December 22, 2025 at 11:06 AM



“ *Jim, Lisa, Hunter, Coltin, and Betty purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.*



Jim, Lisa, Hunter, Coltin, and Betty - December 22, 2025 at 07:33 AM



“ *Jim, Lisa, Hunter, Coltin, and Betty planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.*

Jim, Lisa, Hunter, Coltin, and Betty - December 22, 2025 at 07:33 AM



“ *and families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.*



and families - December 22, 2025 at 06:43 AM

TF

“ The Stanzel Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



The Stanzel Family - December 21, 2025 at 10:56 PM

CP

“ Cari P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Cari P. - December 21, 2025 at 08:25 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



December 21, 2025 at 08:04 PM

BA

“ Brian, Kendal, Atticus & Alfie purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Brian, Kendal, Atticus & Alfie - December 21, 2025 at 03:55 PM

TF

“ The JOHNETTE family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



The JOHNETTE family - December 21, 2025 at 01:14 PM

TJ

“ The Jatons purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



The Jatons - December 21, 2025 at 12:29 PM

LS

“ Lee, Denise and Alex Strom purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Lee, Denise and Alex Strom - December 20, 2025 at 07:41 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



December 20, 2025 at 01:25 PM

WL

“ Walsh’s and Listenbergers. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Walsh’s and Listenbergers. - December 20, 2025 at 01:25 PM



“ I first met Jeff in 1995 when he was an assistant coach for our Millard South basketball team that was runner-up in the state championship that year. He was such a sports guy! He knew all the coaches and referees in and round high school athletics, and many of the college coaches as well. I lost contact with him until 2021 when my son Brody was a freshman at DC West and my sister Lyndsay Walsh(a teacher at DC West) had said there is a retired teacher(Judy Smith) whose husband needs a couple high school kids to help out at Reichmuth cemetery for the summer. My nephew, Cade and Brody were the ones who got the job. Brody worked for Jeff there for four years. One of Brody’s greatest fans, Jeff reached out to one of his friends who coached at Peru State when Brody was being recruited. He was definitely a Brody fan! They say it takes a village, and Jeff was definitely part of our village. What a great mentor and friend to have in your corner! Jeff also became a good friend of mine! I’m gonna miss meeting up with him for lunch at Farmer Brown’s, or godfather’s in Elkhorn(a lot of times with my dad who also loved being around Jeff). You never went anywhere with Jeff where he didn’t know five people(Smitty! Someone would yell across the restaurant), and I mean he really knew them! He lit up a room! He really cared about his community and DC West as an extension. Thank you, Jeff, for being a great friend and mentor! Jeff will be missed by so many, and I count myself lucky to say that I was one of his friends!

James Walsh - December 20, 2025 at 12:47 PM

MM

“ Mike and Lisa Egbarts / Noel Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Mike and Lisa Egbarts / Noel Miller - December 20, 2025 at 10:35 AM

AK

“ Angie's Squad: Lynn, Heather, and Kara purchased the Sympathy Gourmet Charcuterie Gift Basket for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Angie's Squad: Lynn, Heather, and Kara - December 20, 2025 at 09:50 AM

AH

“ Angie's Squad: Lynn, Kara, and Heather purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Angie's Squad: Lynn, Kara, and Heather - December 20, 2025 at 09:39 AM

LK

“ Lynn, K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Lynn, K. - December 20, 2025 at 08:46 AM

KF

“ Kyle and Justine Kibbie and Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Kyle and Justine Kibbie and Family - December 20, 2025 at 12:03 AM

KF

“ Kyle and Justine Kibbie and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Kyle and Justine Kibbie and Family - December 20, 2025 at 12:03 AM

TF

“ The Hansen family. purchased the Stars in the Sky - 11" Heart Garden Stone for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



The Hansen family. - December 19, 2025 at 09:39 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



December 19, 2025 at 08:07 PM

TM

“ The meads planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

The meads - December 19, 2025 at 08:07 PM

JT

“ Julia/Jerry Jennings and Grace Traynor purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Julia/Jerry Jennings and Grace Traynor - December 19, 2025 at 07:19 PM

JT

“ Julia/Jerry Jennings and Grace Traynor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Julia/Jerry Jennings and Grace Traynor - December 19, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



December 19, 2025 at 06:07 PM

DS

“ Denyse and Eric Schult planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Denyse and Eric Schult - December 19, 2025 at 06:07 PM

LM

“ Love, your friends at G&G Manufacturing purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Love, your friends at G&G Manufacturing - December 19, 2025 at 04:28 PM

MC

“ Mike Corrine Michael Daisy Dixie Clover purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Mike Corrine Michael Daisy Dixie Clover - December 19, 2025 at 03:33 PM

MC

“ Mike Corrine Michael Daisy Dixie Clover planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Mike Corrine Michael Daisy Dixie Clover - December 19, 2025 at 03:33 PM

MM

“ Minden M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Minden M. - December 19, 2025 at 03:25 PM

TG

“ Tico G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Tico G. - December 19, 2025 at 02:54 PM

OF

“ Ostransky family purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Ostransky family - December 19, 2025 at 01:37 PM

OF

“ Ostransky family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Ostransky family - December 19, 2025 at 01:37 PM

CW

“ Colette Wiggins purchased the Garden Accent - "Gone yet not forgotten..." for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



Colette Wiggins - December 19, 2025 at 01:36 PM

CW

“ Colette Wiggins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Colette Wiggins - December 19, 2025 at 01:36 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.



December 19, 2025 at 01:08 PM

AN

“ Angie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Wade Smith.

Angie - December 19, 2025 at 01:08 PM