



## Neil Wade Smith

August 1, 1946 - January 13, 2022

Neil Wade Smith “Smitty” was born August 1, 1946 in Imperial, Nebraska to Myron C. and Viola (Keller) Smith. Neil and his family lived in Madrid, NE, then moved to St. Edward, NE, and then Beaver City, NE, before settling in Valley, NE. Neil graduated from Valley High School in 1964. He played basketball and football for the Terriers.

After graduation, he went to work for Western Electric. In 1965, he married Colette McKillip, two children were born; Jeffrey and Angela. Neil remarried in 1990 when Brandon Carr was born.

In 1978, Neil realized working in a manufacturing plant wasn’t his cup of tea, so he started work with Nebco farms, working with the ranch raising cattle, haying, and riding his horse every day. He got to do what he loved, team roping, branding, working calves and trail rides. It was his passion. Never was one to turn down a Hamm’s beer or two with friends. Neil retired from the ranch due to the injured back that prevented him from working the ranch. While raising his family in the early years, Neil and his family loved horse shows and rodeos; traveling all around the state just to get a show in on the weekends. His mom and dad, his sister, Karma, and family, Jeff and Angie. Anyone on a horse he would talk to. Many memories were made in those days. He had a fast horse, one that was entered in the state fair barrel racing, and won! He always had to tell Jeff about his childhood horse, Sugarfoot, and how he rode it to school. To this day, he still has a clipping of its tail.

Neil loved basketball (Boston Celtics), Nebraska Football, Raiders, and was a

closet Chiefs fan. He played slow pitch softball for Honest John's in his younger years, fishing and boating at Lake Leba. He loved to golf and spend a lot of time with friends drinking a cold one on the patio. Neil loved his friend time, and spoke about it often. Anyone who knew him thought he was the only person they knew that drank Hamm's beer! When he found time, he would go watch Kelsey and Nate at sporting events, and would watch them show their cattle at the fair. His love of cattle has passed on to Nathan. He loved an old-fashioned ham and cheese sandwich and a bowl of tomato soup.

Neil passed away in his sleep Wednesday, January 13, 2022 at the age of 75. He was preceded in death by parents Myron C. & Viola Smith, brother Bruce, and granddaughter Kelsey May Smith. Neil is survived by son Jeff and Judy Smith, and their son Nathan of Waterloo, daughter, Angela and Jose Zuniga of Peoria, Arizona, son Brandon and Kim Smith of Omaha, and their kids Avery and Brecken, sister Karma and Richard Ritzdorf of Columbus, NE, and special friend Jan Woodgate of Valley, and many nieces and nephews.

Special Thank You to some special people; Rex and Brenda and Alan Schmitz, Jan and Jeana, Amber Cherny, Maddie and Kenzi, Jeff and Nate and Judy, who was there daily to the end.

Memorial service Tuesday at 11 AM at the funeral home in Elkhorn, with visitation one hour prior. Inurnment at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Elkhorn. Memorials to the family for later designation.

# Cemetery Details

## Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road  
Omaha, NE 68022

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 18.** 10:00 AM - 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](mailto:services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com)  
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

## Memorial Service

**JAN 18.** 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](mailto:services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com)  
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Neil Wade Smith*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Having been out of state, am just now hearing of my old best fiend Neil's passing. Neil and I were nearly inseparable friends throughout high school and after, playing sports together and working in Noyes Feedlots together, double dating and on and on. There I also got to know (and worked for) his father Smitty and his mother as well. What wonderful people.*

*Neil and I even traveled back to his original home town of St. Ed a time or two in our late teens where the girls were all happy to see him, but the guys not quite as much. ;o) Am certain I was directly involved and partly to blame for starting his 'Hamm's-the beer-refreshing' life long habit.*

*Neil was the kind of friend who would do anything for you and was loyal beyond most people's understanding of the word. So sad to hear of the passing of this old friend and great person.*

*Most Sincerely,  
John Flor*

**John Flor** - February 04, 2022 at 02:41 PM



“ *In memory of Neil, Hamms. <https://vimeo.com/349210459>*

*Ken Krueger, Alexandria, Mn*

**Ken Krueger** - January 17, 2022 at 08:31 PM

KK

“ I remember Neil and his family when they lived for a short period of time in St. Edward. I think they came to St. Edward from Cedar Rapids. He was in my grade. Can't remember exactly which, maybe 6th and 7th. I remember Neil as being polite, respectful and smart. I also remember Bruce and their love for horses. My condolences to Neil's family and friends.

*Ken Krueger, Alexandria, MN*

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**Ken Krueger** - January 17, 2022 at 06:55 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes* was purchased for the family of Neil Wade Smith.



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January 16, 2022 at 05:05 PM

TJ

“ *The Jatons* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum* for the family of Neil Wade Smith.



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**The Jatons** - January 14, 2022 at 01:25 PM