



Charles Edward Smith

August 30, 1955 - March 5, 2025

Charles Edward “Buster” Smith, 69, of Kinmundy, passed away peacefully at home on March 5, 2025, with his family by his side. He was born in Salem, Illinois, on August 30, 1955, to William Edward Smith and Dorothy Sullens. Buster lived a life marked by hard work, quiet generosity, and a deep devotion to those he held dear.

Buster is survived by his son, Charles Lukas Smith of Alma; his stepdaughter, Leah (Justin) Diss of Kinmundy; and his beloved granddaughter, Maisyn Diss. He is also survived by his brothers, John (Donna) Smith of Cartter, Earl (Pam) Sullens, and Tim (Chrissy) Sullens; his sisters, Janet (Denny) Rogers of Stillwater, OK, Penny (Francis) Maier of Iuka, and Ladonna Sullens of Kinmundy; along with many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cherished friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Smith and Dorothy Sullens; his brother, Keith “Hair” Smith; Janet Casseday, a lifelong friend and mother to his kids; and his best friend, Carson Baldwin.

Buster was a veteran of the US Army. He was a hardworking man who spent years with Union Pacific Railroad. He had a simple, selfless nature and an eye for the unique—always drawn to antiques and collectibles. But more than that, he had an eye for people. He saw the good in others and never thought twice

about helping someone in need. Whether it was lending a hand, sharing a laugh, or offering quiet support, he gave how he could.

An outdoorsman at heart, he enjoyed riding his side-by-side through his property, golfing with Luke, fishing trips with his friends, and mushroom hunting. After years of traveling for work, he cherished the quiet comfort of home, often immersed in a classic Western. More than anything, he valued time with his children, granddaughter, family, and lifelong friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Sutherland-Rankin Funeral Home Chapel in Salem, with visitation from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lukas Smith to assist with family expenses. Donations will be accepted at Sutherland-Rankin Funeral Home, PO Box 97 / 310 N. Broadway, Salem, IL 62881.

The family deeply appreciates the love and support during this difficult time. Online condolences may be shared at www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or via the Sutherland Funeral Home Facebook page.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 15. 4:00 PM.

Sutherland-Rankin Funeral Home Chapel

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Our condolences and prayers are with you All. Buster was a genuinely kind hearted man that will be missed.* 🙏



Mike & Debbie See - March 10, 2025 at 11:31 AM