



## EUGENE RICHARD SMITH

August 3, 1938 - April 15, 2020

Eugene “PeeWee” Smith, 81, who was born with a heart of gold on August 3, 1938 to Florence and Leo Smith in Parma, Ohio passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. He enjoyed a very fulfilling race through life, which he of course won. PeeWee was proud of many things, mostly 57 years of marriage to the love of his life Barbara (Belter) also known as BAAARRRB!

He will be missed by his children; Jennifer Kirchner (Bill), Kahle Miller (Bob), Kevin Smith (Nicole), Patrick Smith (Leanne), and Maggie Gray (Dave). Gene was a passionate family man who never let an opportunity slip by to express his pride in his Grandchildren ; Katie Ferguson (Nathan), Emily Kirchner, Sarah Kirchner, Billy Kirchner, Mike Miller, Tim Miller, Leo Smith, Grace Smith, Sydney Smith, Amelia Smith, Madeline Smith, Owen Smith, Camilla Nichols, Alexandra Nichols, Demi Nichols, Gordon Gray and Mollie Gray. Dad loved his siblings very much and will be missed by his brothers Leo Smith, Bobby Smith (Chris), his sisters Loretta Vargo, Joyce Jones (Larry) and his in-laws Judy Belter , Tom Belter (Beth), Ann Polgar (Jimmy), and will be joining beloved family members Martha Smith, Don Vargo and Terry Belter, on the other side.

Graduating from St. Ignatius High School in 1956, he cherished staying in touch with his classmates. He relished his time as an Army Paratrooper with the 101st Airborne. PeeWee had an endless circle of friends whom he considered family. Spending time at the kitchen table, listening to Willie, Waylon, and Merle with his to-do list, was a favorite pastime. His love for food was expressed often through direct critiques of most meals. His love of sport was evident throughout his life; whether he was playing, coaching or a spectator, he demanded a 100% commitment to working hard and achieving success that was equal to one’s God given talents. Some of PeeWee's favorite stories came from coaching youth football and Hinckley baseball. His love and knowledge of the history of Cleveland professional teams, and high school sports (especially St. Ignatius football and hockey) were among his favorite things to discuss.

He was an entrepreneur, taking over his father's business, L & H Freight Lines, and

starting Northcoast Pizza, Clecorr Packaging, and running the Hinckley Lake Boathouse. PeeWee was larger than life, if he could help you, he did. Few people that crossed his path were unclear where they stood with Gene. He had an opinion about most everything!! PeeWee impacted many lives beyond his family, and left many life lessons, fond memories, and a highlight reel of questionable decisions that have, and will, provide lasting memories; buying a full-grown Ram for a youth football mascot, rolling logs down a hill for his small children to stop, and thinking that starting a brush fire was a good way to clear the woods, were among the ones that stand out. Gene had been very concerned lately with the current situation in our world.

In Lieu of flowers, please donate to Scranton K-8 by making checks payable to Scranton K-8 and forwarding them to the funeral home, or donate to the West Side Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain Ave., Cleveland OH 44113.

Thanks for the memories and the laughs! Have fun with all your buddies now! You are loved and missed!

Gene's care has been entrusted to Carlson Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, 3477 Medina Rd., Medina, OH 44256. A Celebration of PeeWee's Life will be held sometime after this Pandemic.

# Comments

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“ 60 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Carlson Funeral Homes & Cremation Services** - April 23, 2020 at 08:53 PM

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“ I truly enjoyed the discussions that Gene and I had often while here at Forrest Creek Villas. He was certainly a character and I will miss him very much. Our sympathies to Barb and the family.

Ken McDaniel

**Ken McDaniel** - April 21, 2020 at 11:50 AM

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“ Mr. Smith, as all of his little league ball players called him and he will always be, was a great role model. He was fun to be around and a part of some of my fondest memories as a young man. I am sad he has passed but take heart in knowing he had a very full and wonderful life.

**Gary Hill** - April 21, 2020 at 01:16 AM

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“ Barb and family,  
Dan and I send our sympathy and hugs in this time of great loss. We still tell stories I'd him riding his bike after knee surgery, and going home to catch his breath before going on to the next activity of the day. St. Ignatius has lost a great alum and story teller. We are happy to have spent great times with you both in Vermilion. PeeWee's life gifted great laughter with everyone he touched. He will RIP! Love, from Barb & Dan Keegan

**Barb Keegan** - April 19, 2020 at 02:02 PM

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“ The McTaggart family sends condolences and heartfelt solace to the Smith Family on the death of Gene.

We are reminded of this great prayer/statement from the Monks at Weston Priory:

"There is an Energy which makes things happen, when the paths of other persons touch ours and we have to be there and let it happen. When the time of our particular sunset comes, our 'thing,' our accomplishment won't really matter. But the clarity and care with which we have loved each other will speak with vitality of the great gift of life that we have been for each other."

Gene has gone on ahead and we embrace you in your loss. We also know, without minimizing your grief, that our brother, Bill McTaggart, along with the other members of your family in heaven were there to welcome Gene home.

Billy McTaggart was beneficiary of Gene's special friendship and love from high school on--and throughout their entire adulthood--the mutual friendship endured and is now in its fullness.

What mattered then and now was the "quality and care" of the deep connection of relationship and the free choice of friendship...for your family and for our brother Bill.

Blessings to all of you, Rest in Peace, Gene

The McTaggart Family of Cleveland

Joseph McTaggart - April 18, 2020 at 02:08 PM

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“ I'm so glad I got to give him a hug and a kiss on the cheek the last time I saw him. I can only imagine the stir he's causing "up there". Can't you just see him going to St. Peter and asking "was I wrong????". God bless him and his entire family. It's a privilege and joy to have known him all these years. And a special blessing to him for his service to our country. Scott and I will really miss laughing with him.

Nancy Pedersen - April 18, 2020 at 10:13 AM

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“ Gene, we will miss you, especially Petey, he loved the rides home you gave him on your scooter. We know where he stood with you! Thank you for keeping us all on our toes, you were a good man, Marsha, John and Petey Tantlinger

Marsha Tantlinger - April 18, 2020 at 08:27 AM

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“ We will always remember Gene. He had a smile that could light up a room. He spoke his mind and if you didn't like it so what. I loved watching him ride his scooter around here in Florida. He will be greatly missed. Barbara and John

**Barbara Fisher** - April 17, 2020 at 10:33 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. Memories can never be taken away.



**Michelle Danley** - April 17, 2020 at 09:53 PM