



## Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith

November 8, 1945 - August 23, 2019

Stephen G. "Steve" Smith, age 73, of Marion, IL, passed away peacefully with his family by his side, at 8:50 p.m. on Friday, August 23, 2019, in the Community Living Center a part of Veteran's Hospital in Marion.

He was born on Thursday, November 8, 1945, in Carbondale, IL the son of Herwald M. "Doc" and Ida Irene (Bachmann) Smith,

Steve attended school in Marion and was a graduate of Marion High School Class of 1963. He then attended Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, IL, considering a career associated with the outdoors, until his father needed him to assist with the family business.

Steve answered the call of the nation by serving in the United States Army. After his period of faithful service was honorably discharged and later served in the Illinois Army National Guard.

He was united in marriage to Jo Rana Waterbury on August 8, 1971, in the First United Methodist Church of Marion, and together they have shared over 48 years of marriage. Steve began his successful lifelong photography career in 1968, with schools of the Wood River and Edwardsville, IL area. In 1974, he came back to Marion and bought the Delmar Studios Photography Franchise with a territory from Effingham, IL to Cairo, IL and river to river east and west. Steve developed his business into one of the most successful school photography operations in the country. He achieved it by always operating with the highest degree of ethics and professionalism and expected the same with all his employees. He has left his impact on the faces of thousands of school children and their families for generations to come and many remember these words "Hello Boys and Girls, We are going to have a good time smiling today". "Look Right Up Here – Your Not Married are You? – Smile" Click!!! In 2001, he decided to sell the business but remained until he fully retired in 2005.

He was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church of Marion and the Disciples Sunday School Class. He was actively involved with photography in the church and helped creating new church member directories over the years.

Steve also was a member of Fellowship Masonic Lodge No. 89 AF & AM of Marion, Ducks Unlimited, The National Turkey Federation and was a charter member of the Maddox Bay

World Championship Squirrel Club located on the Lower White River in Arkansas.

Another important part of his life was his hunting dogs. He exemplified discipline and excellence in his training of both English Pointers and Labrador Retrievers. As an amateur owner and trainer, he developed champions in both breeds on their respective field trial circuits. He was extremely disciplined in his efforts to be a great owner and trainer of his dogs.

He loved his dogs and was determined to be exact and precise in every facet of their training. The amount of work and effort never mattered to Steve as he was fully committed to making his dogs the very best, while treating them with great care and loving kindness always.

His English Pointer "Stephen's Super Sport" won 5 championships in field trials between 1984 and 1990; perhaps the most notable title being named the national champion in 1989, in the American Field sponsored "National Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship". One of his many Labrador Retrievers "Stephen's Super Chief" a Yellow Labrador was exceptional in the field and achieved being recognized as a "Hunting Retriever Champion" by the National Hunting Retriever Club.

Steve loved everything of outdoors and enjoyed sharing it with everyone. Many said he was a "One of a Kind" and once you had met him, you knew you were with someone that loved life with a passion and you never would forget him by his charisma, willingness to teach the young and his knack for conversation. He forged a name that will be never be forgotten by many and a legacy that will be hard to be duplicated.

Blessing upon you Steve; the Crappie are hitting at the Lake of Egypt, the Catfish are biting on the Ohio, the squirrels are cutting down at the Cache, the turkeys are gobbling on Owl Ridge and the sound of whistling wings are above. You will always be remembered by many.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Rana Smith of Marion; two daughters and sons-in-law, Amber and Jeff Fike and Melise and Ryan Oakley all of Marion; eight grandchildren, Zac Pineda of Sarasota, FL, Tyler Oakley and his wife, Kaylee of Murray, KY and Caleb Mayfield, Abbi Mayfield, Rhyann Amber Oakley, Kash David Hutchcraft, Jaxson Fike and Annalise Oakley all of Marion and a multitude of best friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Herwald Paul Smith.

Arrangements were entrusted to Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court St., Marion.

The visitation was from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27th, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, located at 1201 N. Fair St. in Marion.

The visitation resumed again on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, at the church from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

During the time of visitation a "Reflection of Life" DVD Memorial Tribute featuring special people, places and events in Steve's life was presented to the family and friends.

Following the time of visitation, the memorial service was at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Lance Leeds and Rev. James Slone presiding.

Comments of memory were presented by Dave Disney, Sharon Vansaghi, Tim Gibson, Gerry Glasco and Steve Frick.

The prelude and postlude musical selections were presented by pianist, Judy Hopkins and organist, Sharon Disney.

Special vocal musical selection "Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone" was presented by vocalist, Nick Williams with guitarist, Corryne Shaw accompanying. Also presented was the musical selection "Blessed Assurance" as a congregational hymn with pianist, Judy Hopkins and organist, Sharon Disney accompanying.

Military honors were accorded at the church by members of the Marion Funeral Honors Ritual Team and members of the United States Army National Guard Funeral Honors Detail.

Following the military tribute the family and friends gathered in the Abundant Life Center of the church for a meal and continued time of fellowship and support.

For those who preferred, memorial contributions were made to either or both "Aldersgate United Methodist Church Memorial Fund" and/or "This Able Veteran" (a veteran service dog organization) and were mailed in care of Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court Street, Marion, IL 62959. Memorial envelopes were available at the church.

For additional information call the funeral home at 618-993-2131.

# Events

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**AUG** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

**27**

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Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1201 North Fair Street, Marion, IL, US, 62959

**AUG** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**28**

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Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1201 North Fair Street, Marion, IL, US, 62959

**AUG** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

**28**

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Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1201 North Fair Street, Marion, IL, US, 62959

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home** - August 26, 2019 at 06:06 PM



“ Oh, this is so beautiful!!!! Thank you for posting it. It definitely shows Stephen's life.

**Linda Smith Duncan** - August 27, 2019 at 10:29 PM



“ A beautiful tribute to such a vibrant man. He was a blessing to all who knew him. God's comfort to JoRana and family. Love, Sharon "Luke"

**Sharon (Lucas) Mink** - August 28, 2019 at 11:37 PM

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“ 27 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home** - September 04, 2019 at 11:53 AM

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“ I failed to mention on my last tribute that Steve took the wedding pictures for my two daughters, Denise and Sharon, even though he wasn't doing weddings anymore. He did this as a favor to them and always said how beautiful both of my daughters were and he was happy to this for them. The photos were beautiful! Listening to all the stories at the funeral service let me know more about Steve than I did. Again JoRana, Amber and Melise, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Rita Dutton

**Rita Dutton** - September 03, 2019 at 11:49 PM

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“ Gosh , what a great guy . He took our pictures in school for years. As I always told him “ I am surprised I didn't break his camera “! He will be missed !

**Brent Gentry** - August 28, 2019 at 11:05 PM

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“ Jo Rana, I'm so sorry for your loss. Steve was a wonderful person and friend. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.  
Judy Robertson

**Judy Robertson** - August 28, 2019 at 10:04 AM

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“ I never will forget that hunt on the bike trail. It is one of my fondest memories. I am so glad I got to share it with Smitty as my guide. All the pictures capture his love of life and family. I am so happy that I got to spend time with him over the last few years. God bless his wonderful family and his special friends. Ride on Smitty! Stan Teeter

**Stan Teeter** - August 27, 2019 at 09:29 PM

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“ Jo Rana and girls: So sorry to hear about Steve. He was such a nice guy; always smiling and speaking to people. He was a true gentleman. He will be missed by everyone that knew him. Just remember all the memories you have and he will always be by your side. Your friend and past neighbor, Sonja.

**sonja fleming** - August 27, 2019 at 12:12 PM

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“ Jo Rana, Melise, Amber and family, May your sorrow & mourning give way to all the wonderful memories you shared with this guy. Thoughts of comfort to you all.

To Steven; you have left on a journey we all aren't on yet. I borrow some words from Peter Pan." you wont get lost at all. Just follow the bright stars in heaven and take the first star to the right. Its straight on til morning where St Peter, God and the Angels will be waiting. "They are welcoming you with your terrific smile, love of nature, love of family and community. They don't know that you are the best dancer ever! May you keep dancing & smiling! Don't forget to send stardust tumbling down on your loving family & friends.

Linda Powless - August 27, 2019 at 11:17 AM

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“ He was always smiling. Anytime i saw him he was genuinely happy to see me,he always put a smile on my face.  
My heart breaks at the loss of an amazing man.  
My prayers are with his family.  
Kathi Odum

Kathi Odum - August 27, 2019 at 09:10 AM

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“ 303 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - August 26, 2019 at 05:46 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith.



August 26, 2019 at 04:22 PM



“ We are sorry to hear of Steve’s passing. We will continue to keep your family in our prayers. We will not be able to attend the visitation because we are in China visiting our son. Loren and Gayla Taylor

**Gayla Taylor** - August 26, 2019 at 12:40 PM

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“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith.



August 26, 2019 at 11:57 AM

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“ Such a wonderful family, worked for them during my last year of highschool and shortly after. He was an amazing man, boss and photographer. So sorry for your loss!!! He also took baby pictures of my mother when him and Jorann were just starting out!! He will always be remembered by many!

**Amber Crawford** - August 26, 2019 at 10:40 AM

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“ JoRana, Amber, Melise, I am so sorry for your loss. My Heart goes out to you. Will keep all of you in my prayers.

**vicki shotton** - August 26, 2019 at 10:04 AM

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“ Julie Barnaby lit a candle in memory of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith



**Julie Barnaby** - August 26, 2019 at 12:38 AM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



**Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home** - August 25, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ I have fond memories of Stephen when I was in charge of the Eldorado High School Yearbook. Wonderful man! So sorry for your loss

**Beth** - August 25, 2019 at 07:55 PM

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“ So many good memories (and parties) Jean and Don Ness

**Jean Ness** - August 25, 2019 at 03:23 PM

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“ Jo Rana, Amber, Melise & Family, So sorry for your loss. My Heart goes out to your family Will keep all of you in my prayers.

**vicki denning** - August 25, 2019 at 03:19 PM

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“ With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith.



August 25, 2019 at 09:28 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith.



August 25, 2019 at 09:25 AM

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“ I worked for Steve and Jo Rana for a short time. He was a good boss and fun to work with. One of the assignments I went on with Steve was at a grade school. When the job was completed I asked Steve if I could go home early instead of returning to the office. Naturally he asked why did I need to leave early. Told him I was wiped out and needed a nap. He just laughed and told me that would be fine. Working with all those little kids was challenging. That was so nice of him to understand how I was feeling. He of course had plenty of energy left.

**Dianne Wall** - August 24, 2019 at 06:01 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith.



August 24, 2019 at 04:36 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith.



August 24, 2019 at 04:22 PM

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“ Judy Briner lit a candle in memory of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith



**Judy Briner** - August 24, 2019 at 03:38 PM

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“ Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Stephen Glenn "Steve" Smith



**Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home** - August 24, 2019 at 12:48 PM



“ So sorry to hear the loss of Steve. Steve and I went back a long way as neighbors and friends growing up. Our prayers are prayers will be with the family. R.I.P. Steve

**Jim Schafer** - August 25, 2019 at 09:39 PM



“ Saddened by the loss of Steve. He was an old friend; not one to be forgotten. Jim and Paula Stephens Hargrave

**Paula Hargrave** - August 27, 2019 at 08:04 AM



“ What a wonderful man and great friend, I knew and worked with Steve for many years. It saddens me to hear of the loss of such a special person. Prayers being sent to the entire family, May God bless you all. Ernest, Delice, Terry & Tracy Felty.

**Ernest L. Felty** - August 27, 2019 at 09:33 AM



“ Jo Rana, so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. Prayers to you and your entire family. Darlene (Patrick) Watkins

**Dalene Watkins** - August 27, 2019 at 08:21 PM