



Kent Allen Smith

June 15, 1942 – November 22, 2023

Kent Allen Smith, 81, died Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023. He was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on June 15, 1942, to Ray Edwin Smith and Frances Allen Smith.

Kent was a devoted father, beloved husband, cherished Gramp, distinguished Air Force Captain and Vietnam veteran, who was preceded in death by his beloved wife of over 50 years, Adelaide Whyel Smith.

Kent was a pinnacle of character as a husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. He was always fair, and taught his family to be objective and to handle things with respect and dignity toward all, regardless of the circumstances. One of the statements Kent was most known for was "pay it forward." He was also known for his love of music, and instilled this in his children.

Kent's memory will forever be cherished in the hearts of his family and friends. His children remember his incredible ability to balance tenderness with firmness, and the comfort and security he gave them by always being there. He taught his children a deep love of nature and wildlife, and spent much of his retirement traveling the world's trails. Kent had a gravitas and presence that allowed him to be influential in all situations, be it professional or personal.

He dedicated his life to serving his country and protecting the freedoms he held dear. As an esteemed officer in the Air Force, he demonstrated courage and commitment throughout his military career, leaving a lasting legacy of honor and duty. In 1976, following his military service, Kent transitioned into the corporate sector with Johnson & Johnson until he retired in 1999. He was known for his generosity, leadership, and kindness.

Kent leaves behind a legacy of love and family. Family was the cornerstone of his life, and his love for them knew no bounds. His devotion to his wife Addi was unwavering, and their enduring partnership was an inspiration to all who knew them. Kent is survived by his 3 children: Christina Hall (Ernie), Katharine Boles (Barry), and Matthew Smith (Jessye); 10 grandchildren: Victoria (Jim), Spencer (Jenna), Alexander (Madison), Elizabeth; Madeline, Davis, Avery, Matthew, Lauren, Ashley; 2 great grandchildren Leo and Owen. His legacy of love, service, and generosity will continue to inspire generations to come.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National Parks Organization (give.nationalparks.org) in Kent's honor.