



James Smiley

July 30, 1946 - November 12, 2020

James “Jim” Smiley 74, passed from this life due to heart failure, on November 12, 2020 at his home in Ankeny, Iowa.

He was proud to say he survived the ravages of “behavioral variant” Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) for two decades. The loss of riding his beloved Harley was the greatest sadness of his life. Thanks to the support from Suncrest Hospice and especially, Brie, Jim was able to pass in his “Harley Room” at his own home.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Wanette; daughters, Michelle Hamilton, Jill East and Darcy (Kevin) Baysinger; 8 grandchildren; his sister, Jo Roberts; and other survivors include his birth family , brother, Bob and sister, Bev. He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Bob and June Smiley; and birth parents, Elenora and Raymond; and brother, Curtis.

Private Memorial Service will happen at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the family c/o Dyamond Memorial 121 SW 3rd Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50023.

My Last Ride

My hands are clenched around chrome bars the engine’s rumble sounds so sweet. I twist the throttle with my palm and roar off down the street. The slapping of my leathers and raging winds on either side, drum a beat of sweet contentment as I ride this my last ride. Alone on my tin pony, to the

heavens I've been called, but fret not my dear loved ones, I'm not lonely here at all. The speedometer is just a blur as tears blow from my eyes, the bike and I roll forward off into the calling skies. I hope I touched your lives one day, and left a treasured mark, now I'll ride on to FOREVER, with your memory in my heart. By Frank Clark

Cemetery Details

Lincoln Cametery

Granger, IA

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ I am shocked and saddened that Jim has passed. We were great, best friends from elementary school through High School. We had so many great times belonging to the same car club, double dating, performing in "The Travelers" Folk Singing Trio. Just FANTASTIC Times. These times were memories I will never forget. Certainly wish we had not grown apart. God Bless Jim and all of his family.

Doyce Bailey - November 17, 2020 at 09:48 PM



“ It was a great pleasure to get to know Jim. Even though I didn't get to meet him until later in life, I enjoyed listening to him talk to me about his Harley days, and the passion in his voice when he would tell me that he was still a "Harley" guy. Along with his stories, and him telling me about his Harley room, he always had the good advice about remaining safe while riding. He offered to give me gloves so that my guy would wear them, and not get skin cancer. Along with getting to know this great guy, I have also had the pleasure of getting to know his wife, caretaker, mother of his children, and partner in life. I wish all the best for the family, and for you Wanette to know that you were one of the best caretakers I have encountered! (He listened to you, so you had to be doing something right. :))
My thoughts, prayers and good hopes are with you at this time of loss.

Lisa Johnson Porter - November 14, 2020 at 04:30 PM

BH

“ Too many stories that I could share, but one that I will always remember is our "normal" Friday routine...

I would go to get my hair done, then stop by the bank to pick up some popcorn to take to Jim...and he would always "pat down" my hair to see how soft it was. The great memories I have of Jim are far too many to list here. I will miss him dearly!

Bette Honeck - November 14, 2020 at 02:58 PM

KM

“ Wanette and family,

We send our deepest sympathy to each of you. My first thought about Jim is, " He was quite a guy!" He always had a smile and a cheery hello for everyone. We loved seeing him at church and during " Soul Cafe' ! We knew he liked to 'ride' but had no idea it was such a love in his life. Thanks for sharing the video with everyone.

May God grant you peace as your memories flood your mind and comfort as you know that you will all be together again one day.

*In Christian love,
Ron and Kathy Marshall*

Kathleen A Marshall - November 13, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dyamond Memorial - *Burials *Cremations *Monuments - November 13, 2020 at 02:09 PM

JN

That is fun a story. Makes me wonder if I missed a turn somewhere back down the road, or just went on a different path. Cousin Jack

John Nelson - November 17, 2020 at 08:57 AM

MH

“ *Things that come to mind:
Watching from your bedroom window for Dad to come up from milking cows on Christmas morning so we could go downstairs to see what Santa brought.
Riding our ponies.
The time you stranded me on the hog house roof!
Our special trees, we each had one to climb.
Riding our bikes as fast as we could down the hill in front of the house and trying not to wipe out at the bottom, that gravel was tricky!
Such a wonderful childhood and someone so special to share it with. I'll miss you.*

With love from your sister Jo

michelle hamilton - November 13, 2020 at 01:28 PM

MH

“ Advice from my dad: (when I rode on the back of many of his motorcycles)...

“Close your mouth or bugs go in!”

“Lean into the turns”

From your oldest daughter, Michelle “Chelle”

michelle hamilton - November 13, 2020 at 10:47 AM