



Kent Kay Smith

July 4, 1934 - February 17, 2023

Kent Kay Smith, age 88, of Willoughby, Ohio, died February 17, 2023 at University Hospital Lake West Medical Center in Willoughby. He was born July 4, 1934.

Kent was an Army veteran, a faithful Presbyterian, an award-winning educator, a loving husband & patient parent, a night school principal, a sportsbook statistician, and a Euclid Recreation Department summer baseball league organizer.

He loved books, baseball, fireworks, travel, cats, newborns, manual transmission autos, and Thanksgiving. He was pleasant and kind and wise and he made people have better days. Those who encountered him were glad they did and those who knew him were lucky to do so.

Born in Fort Wayne Indiana, Kent was a Euclid native and was both a beneficiary and a benefactor of the Euclid City Public Schools. His parents, Delmar and Gertrude, taught in the Euclid School System and he graduated from the (then) new Euclid High School in 1952. Following a degree from Wittenberg University in 1956, Kent returned to Euclid as an educator himself, teaching first at Shore Junior High and finishing his public education career at Central Middle School. Following his public-school retirement in 1986, he continued to teach at the Phillips Osborne School until 2001.

He met his wife of 60 years, Judith (nee Kessler), in the hallways of Shore Junior High where she was a colleague educator - an art teacher. All three of his sons, Kent, Mark, and Jeff, were also Euclid High School graduates.

In 1986, Kent was named the Euclid Teachers Association Outstanding Educator. In 1987, he became the first educator selected to the Euclid Schools Distinguished Achievement Hall of Fame; but he was not just a Euclid School system educator, he also was a basketball statistician for 33 years. He worked as the official scorekeeper for boys and girls teams at Shore Junior High, Central Middle School and Euclid High School. Additionally, for 27 years, he was the official score keeper for the Euclid Sectional and District playoff basketball tournaments. It was that dedication that got Kent inducted into the Euclid High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2008. At that time, he was just the tenth person to be inducted into both Euclid School Hall of Fames.

Kent was a faithful Presbyterian all his life. He served at Historic First Church in East Cleveland and First Presbyterian Church in Willoughby as Deacon, Ruling Elder, and Clerk of Session for many devoted years.

Kent spent his final 14.5 years as a resident of Breckenridge Village in Willoughby where he logged over a thousand hours of volunteer work. He served as chair of his housing division and would often be found driving the tram around campus in his red and white Cat-in-the-Hat hat.

He leaves behind his beloved family and legions of lives touched.

Survivors include his wife, Judith Smith; his sons, Kent, Mark, and Jeff; daughter in law, Alicia; and his grandchildren Rachel, Rebecca, Kevin, and Ellen, who will miss him dearly.

In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his sister, Jeanine Reed.

A memorial service will be held Friday, March 3, 2023, at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Willoughby, 4785 Shankland Road, Willoughby, Ohio 44094. A time of food and fellowship at the church will be held following the service.

For those unable to attend, you will be able to watch the service online via the church's website: <https://www.fpcwilloughby.org/worship.html>

In lieu of flowers, the family asks your consideration of a donation to the Life Care Fund at Ohio Living Breckenridge Village, c/o the Ohio Living Foundation, 9200 Worthington Road, Suite 300, Westerville OH 43082.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 3. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Willoughby
4785 Shankland Road
Willoughby, OH 44094
office@fpcwilloughby.org
<https://www.fpcwilloughby.org/>

Tribute Wall

RY

“ Our deepest sympathy to the entire Smith family. My sisters and I had Mr. Smith for 7th grade science at Shore Junior High School during the 1970s and 1980s. He was the very BEST of teachers...so kind, understanding, soft spoken, and knowledgeable. He really cared and that made an impression on our young lives. He inspired me personally to love and excel in science, and his inspiration has carried me through to today. The world was much richer because of his presence in it, and I am sure that we will meet again in Heaven because he knew what was important in life, and that meant he was a dedicated Christian who knew Jesus Christ as his personal savior, too. We pray for the peace of God to comfort you at this most difficult time and sincerely thank you for sharing this amazing person with the rest of us in Euclid. Our heartfelt condolences, Roberta Yuhas and the rest of the Yuhas family

Roberta Yuhas - March 13, 2023 at 03:11 AM

KM

“ The entire Marlow family has been saddened greatly. Mr. Smith taught two of our children at Phillips Osborne School in Painesville and was one of their best teachers. Ever! It isn't often that a Middle School teacher is thought of so fondly, but Kent was. He will be missed.

Kip Marlow - March 03, 2023 at 07:32 AM

LU

“ Dear Mrs. Smith, you and your family are in my heart. I tried to replicate the kindness that you both showed to all students during my career as an educator. God bless you.
Luci Oliverio Gernot

Luci - March 02, 2023 at 09:51 PM

TW

“ Condolences to the Smith family.
I had Mr. Smith for 7th grade Science at Shore in 1965-66.
Also was on the basketball team, for which he was Mr. Serra's
assistant coach.
He was the nicest guy in the world, and one of my favorite teachers.
I wish I'd gotten by to visit him sometime.
He'll be missed by many.
Again, my condolences.
Tom

Tom Warder - February 26, 2023 at 09:37 PM

KL

“ My sincere sympathy to the entire Smith family for the loss of this
dear man. I was fortunate to have Mr. Smith as my science teacher
in seventh grade at Shore Junior High in 1967. He was without a
doubt my favorite teacher in all of my 12 years in Euclid schools. He
will be remembered for his dedication, knowledge, and kindness.

Karen Bowman Lowe - February 26, 2023 at 03:25 PM

AK

“ My sadness is nothing compared to your loss. I hope the good
memories of his life are some condolence. Stories of his class are
still talked about. Mr. Smith was a delightful teacher with a kind
heart.

Amy Kost - February 25, 2023 at 02:50 PM

SA

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Kent. So many memories from
when he was my science teacher through being next door
neighbors on E. 216th street. We wish you peace and comfort. ❤️.
Ken and Sandi Zalewski

Sandi - February 25, 2023 at 11:30 AM

SQ

“ *Judy and family, we are very sorry for your loss. Kent was a wonderful man, and he will be missed. Please accept our sympathy. Michael and Sandra Quinn.*

Sandra C Quinn - February 22, 2023 at 05:19 PM

BF

“ *So sorry to hear about the passing of Kent Smith. He was an important person at First Presbyterian Church, Willoughby. My condolences to Judy and her family.*

Bonnie Farinacci - February 22, 2023 at 02:49 PM

CB

So sorry to hear about the passing of Kent. Both of you were such an important part of Historic First Presbyterian Church. My parents thought so much about you. Prayers and thoughts to you and the family.

Cathy Newman Barton

Cathy J Barton - March 20, 2023 at 09:12 PM