



## John Robert Smith

October 11, 1944 - February 21, 2021

John Robert Smith, 76, of Bolivar, MO passed away Sunday, February 21, 2021 peacefully at his residence.

John was born on October 11, 1944 in Unionville, Missouri, the son of Robert H. "Bob" Smith and Irene (Williamson) Smith. On John's 4th birthday the family moved to Bolivar because of his father's job with the newly formed Missouri Conservation Department.

John graduated from Bolivar High School, Class of 1962, and attended Southwest Baptist College. While in school he was active in sports, glee club, mixed chorus and school plays.

He started attending First Christian Church with his family in 1948 and was an active member during his life. John taught Sunday school, served as narrator of the Christmas Cantata and was Elder Emeritus at the time of his death. In his youth he was active in the church sponsored Boy Scout Troop 128. Inspired by his father's leadership as a Scoutmaster, John became an Eagle Scout in the class of 1959.

In the summer of 1967 he joined the United States Navy. After Boot Camp he was sent to Naval Hospital Corps School and later sent to Field Medical Service School where he trained to be a Field Medic with the United States

Marine Corps. John spent six years on active duty and was discharged in 1973. Following his military service, John began a career in the automobile industry where he was a salesman for 25 years. In 1999 he joined the staff of Butler Funeral Home, where he had worked during his college years prior to joining the Navy. John retired from the funeral home in October 2019.

Vacation often found John riding his Gold Wing motorcycle to Cody, Wyoming. He was a student of firearms and their history.

He was preceded in death by his parents. John was devoted to his parents, especially in their senior years.

Surviving John is his brother Phillip L. Smith (Martha) of Hannibal, MO; children Michael Davolt (Denise) of Nashville, TN; Michelle Thornhill (Bret) of Bella Vista, AR; Grady Davolt of Columbia, MO. Niece Lora M. Smith of McKinney, TX; nephew Gregory L. Smith of New York, NY. Grandchildren, Zoey, Zaley and Ty Davolt of Nashville, TN; Maddie, Mollie and Collin Thornhill of Bella Vista, AR; Colby and Parker Davolt of Columbia, MO.

Services will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday, February 26th at the First Christian Church in Bolivar, MO with Pastor Bill Nichols officiating. Burial will take place in the Greenwood Cemetery following services on Friday. The family asks that those in attendance wear masks and practice social distancing.

Due to COVID there will be no public visitation. John had many friends in the Bolivar area and they are invited to pay their respects and sign the register book at anytime.

Pallbearers will be Michael Davolt, Ty Davolt, Gregory L. Smith, Bret Thornhill, Collin Thornhill, Gary Short, Rick Lindsay, and Michael Fraser.

Memorials are suggested to the First Christian Church of Bolivar, MO.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

S. Dunnegan Ave.  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

FEB **26**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Christian Church  
407 W Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Robert Smith*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *John Robert Smith*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *A lifetime of memories. From when we were children and our parents often visited on Sunday afternoons. Growing up together at First Christian Church. Many, many talks at church during "Coffee Hour" as adults. Information and memory shared. And, of course, each year when I delighted in deviling him about being one year and one day older than I. I will miss him. I am sorry for your loss. Although I will not be able to attend the service I will hold all of you in my heart and prayers.*

*Sincerely,*  
*Jean Pufahl Vincent*

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**Jean Pufahl Vincent** - February 25, 2021 at 06:31 PM

MS

“ John was one of my dearest friends during high school. He was always finding humor in almost everything. It was one of his dear gifts to those with whom he shared friendship, fishing and hunting. We spent a lot of time riding around in his dad's car with John pretending to be a police officer cause dad's car had a big whip antenna and a microphone he played with.(of course he didnt actually use it or Bob would have takenhim to the wood shed.) We were just chilling, thinking about gitls or fishing or shooting doves. It was an honor to have him as one i considered a best friend.



*Mike Swingle*

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**Michael Swingle** - February 24, 2021 at 11:01 PM

 Kara  
Miller

“ Prayers to the family. Grew up at First Christian Church and John has always been an integral part of the church community.

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**Kara Miller** - February 24, 2021 at 07:59 PM

NJ

“ It always brings a smile to my face to remember beautiful fall days, canoeing on Pomme de Terre river, covered with sycamore leaves, with John and Bill Jester. We would walk through freshly plowed fields along the river, collecting arrowheads!! He taught me what to look for in order to spot arrowheads, barely peaking out of the dirt.....then call everything I found “beginners luck”! John’s gentle humor was only one thing that made him endearing. We all had the happiest of times, and what felt like some of the worst of times during our path of friendship. A most genuine person and true friend, John was always there for you. He will be missed for sure, but his presence will always be carried in our hearts. Loving memories, always.

Nancy Jester - February 23, 2021 at 05:16 PM

LB

“ Sending love and prayers to Michelle, Michael, and Grady and families. When we were first married and visiting family in Bolivar, John sold us our first car! He was always a comfort when we came home to pay tribute to our family members. God Bless, Linda(Davolt) and Steve Brinkman

Linda Brinkman - February 23, 2021 at 11:48 AM

KL

“ For many years, John came in early on Sunday to set the communion table. He considered this an important part of his elder duties. He was an active and involved elder, always willing to do what he could.



Kathleen Long - February 23, 2021 at 09:30 AM

CR

“ *Would always set and visit with John at the nursing home, when he was visiting his Mom. He was visiting her every evening. He will be missed by so many.*

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**Carol Roush** - February 22, 2021 at 08:11 PM

CR

“ *Carol Roush lit a candle in memory of John Robert Smith*



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**Carol Roush** - February 22, 2021 at 08:05 PM

SB

“ *I will always remember John Robert's ability to give the most amazing prayers at church. I remember his Elder Prayers were always so touching. I joined our rotation of Sunday School teachers last year and I could always count on him to give a meaningful prayer with no advance notice at all. I sat beside him and assisted him with the attendance record book for our class. I finally convinced him it would be alright for me to take the class offering so he didn't have to walk out and take it to the superintendent, as was his custom. I'm eternally grateful for his assistance a few years ago when I enrolled in a "Conceal and Carry Class", without his help I would not have taken the class.*

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**Sue Bassett** - February 22, 2021 at 09:49 AM



*Thank you for sharing*

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**Michelle Thornhill** - February 23, 2021 at 07:21 AM

MS

*John was one of my very close friends through high school. One of his gifts was to find humor in almost everything so hanging around John brought me many smiles and belly laughs. He loved driving his dad's Missouri Conservation car because it was equipped with a two way radio with a big 8 foot whip antenna.*

*He enjoyed pretending to be a police officer and trying to impress the girls with his charm. It was fun just being with John. He was a very good friend and man. Miss you Big John!*

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**Michael Swingle** - February 24, 2021 at 11:17 PM

SB

“ *Sue Bassett lit a candle in memory of John Robert Smith*



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**Sue Bassett** - February 22, 2021 at 09:32 AM