



## James G. Smolik

May 31, 1938 - June 17, 2023

Age 85, of South Wilmington, IL passed away peacefully with his family by his side, Saturday, June 17, 2023 at his home. Born May 31, 1938 in South Wilmington to the late Otto, Jr. and Elvira Lillian (nee Hockings) Smolik. Jim graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington High School with the class of 1956. He married his high school sweet heart, Mary Lou Anderson on October 10, 1959 in South Wilmington, where they made their home and raised two beloved children. He retired in 2000 from the Carpenter's Union Local #916 after forty-two years of dedicated employment. He also served on the board of directors and was a founding member of the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. Member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington and was a Third Degree Knight within the Knights of Columbus Braidwood Council #1574. He also dedicated many hours working on the South Wilmington Volunteer Fire Department, where he formerly served as the Fire Chief for twenty-five years. Jim took great pride in his small side business, "Smolik's Saw Sharpening" and also had a love for hunting, fishing, playing guitar, riding around in his golf cart, dancing the polka, and most importantly spending time with his family. Surviving are two children, Monty (Natalie) Smolik of Diamond, IL and Michelle (Mark) Sorensen of Texarkana, TX; five grandchildren, Abbie (Landon) Bussey, Adam (Hannah) Sorensen, Mackenzie Smolik, Macallister (Cassandra) Smolik, and Madeleine Smolik; three great-grandsons, also known as grandpa's little buddies, Mattis and Bowen Bussey, and Caden James Smolik; brother, John R. (the late Jeanne) Smolik of South Wilmington;

dear cousin, Mary Kaye Gerrish; and special nephews and niece, Jason and Jeff Smolik, Tara Brooks, and Tadd Gerrish. Preceding him in death were his parents; and beloved wife, Mary Lou (nee Anderson) Smolik, whom predeceased Jim on May 28, 2020. Visitation for Jim will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Tuesday, June 20, 2023 from 5- 8 p.m. Family and friends are welcome to meet at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington, Wednesday, June 21, 2023 for a Mass of Christian Burial at 12:00 p.m. Interment will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the St. Lawrence Catholic Church or the South Wilmington Volunteer Fire Department would be appreciated. For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Braceville-Gardner Cemetery

7295 W. Braceville Road  
Braceville, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 20. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home  
401 East Main St.  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
(815) 458-2336  
[info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

## Service

JUN 21. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

St Lawrence Catholic Church  
165 Rice Rd  
South Wilmington, IL 60474  
(815) 237-2230

# Tribute Wall

VO

“ *Monty Michelle n families  
I m soo sorry for your loss  
What a great uncle he was  
I guess I'll hear him play a white sport coat n pink carnation when I  
get to heaven!💜💜  
Love  
Vickie chris n allie olsen*

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**Vickie Olsen** - June 21, 2023 at 08:27 PM

KB

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss - such a great guy  
and such a wonderful family!  
Always made me feel like a part of them!  
He will be truly missed along with marylou  
You r in my thoughts everyday Michelle mark  
and family*



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**kelly bedolla** - June 20, 2023 at 02:48 PM

DS

“ *RIP Jimmy. Gayle and Dave Scanavino*

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**Dave Scanavino** - June 20, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ 122 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - June 19, 2023 at 02:40 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

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R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - June 19, 2023 at 12:46 PM