



Neal Joseph Smolik

April 17, 1958 - June 4, 2025

Neal Joseph Smolik

“BBKnees”

Neal Joseph Smolik, known to many as "BBKnees," passed away on June 4, 2025, at Lightways Hospice in Joliet, Illinois, at the age of 67. A resident of Braceville, Illinois, Neal was born on April 17, 1958, in Joliet, to Frank "Fritz" J. Smolik and Irene Mary King. He was originally from South Wilmington, Illinois. On December 26, 2013, Neal married Judy Jones in Joliet. He dedicated his career as a Union Laborer with Local 75 and was a proud member of the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. Neal loved to golf, embracing the game with genuine enthusiasm. He grew up playing baseball and enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs.

Neal is survived by his beloved wife, Judy Smolik; his son, Douglas Blaser; and his daughters, Stephanie (Nathan) Bolz and Nicole Smolik. He also leaves behind his brothers-in-law, Vern Canham and John Bohac; his sister-in-law, Mary Smolik; and his grandchildren, Tyler Bolz, Christopher Kutz, and Lillyanna Kutz. He will be dearly missed by several close friends and his cherished golf buddies.

Neal was preceded in death by his parents, Frank "Fritz" J. Smolik and Irene Mary King; his sisters, Jeanne Canham and Patti Bohac; and his brother, Jerry Smolik

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held at

R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes & Crematory on Wednesday, June 11, 2025
from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

To share memories or offer condolences, please visit Neal's online guestbook
at www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes & Crematory
401 E. Main ST., Braidwood, 815-458-2336
www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ *Deepest sympathies to the Smolik Family. I grew up with Neal and Patti. Keeping the family in my prayers. Annette Residori Johnson* ”

Annette Johnson - July 19, 2025 at 07:10 PM

JL

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. I just found out my prayers are with you all....* ”



Jerry london - June 11, 2025 at 03:01 PM

DF

“ *De Anna Farrell lit a candle in memory of Neal Smolik* ”



De Anna Farrell - June 09, 2025 at 06:28 PM

BW

“ *Beverly Smolik Walkling lit a candle in memory of Neal Smolik* ”



Beverly Smolik Walkling - June 09, 2025 at 06:00 PM

CW

“ *Cousin Beverly J Smolik Walkling lit a candle in memory of Neal Smolik*



Cousin Beverly J Smolik Walkling - June 09, 2025 at 05:56 PM

CW

“ *After Aunt Irene passed, we lost all track of Jerry. In fact, we lost all contact with the whole families of Uncle Fritz and Aunt Irene. Jeannie and I kept in contact for a few years and then we lost her too. Neal and I would meet at the VFW in Wilmington on Friday night once in awhile, during their Fish Fries and it was always good to catch up. I had no idea he was ill. RIP Dear Cousin and our sympathies go to his wife and children. your cousin Bev and Dave Walkling.*

Cousin Beverly J Smolik Walkling - June 09, 2025 at 05:55 PM

KD

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Neal. He was a great friend. We had so many good times together years back. Rest in peace Neal*

Kimi Dunn - June 08, 2025 at 03:21 PM

PT

“ *BBKnees, rest in peace brother!
The Toler Family.*

Patricia Thompson - June 08, 2025 at 12:58 PM

NL

“ Neal was my neighbor in South Wilmington we were friends many years sorry to hear of his passing. Norm Lardi

Norm Lardi - June 07, 2025 at 09:50 PM

DP

“ Neal was in the first class I taught at South Wilmington grade school. He was quite a character but a good one. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Dominic Pantaleone - June 07, 2025 at 11:00 AM

PS

So sorry to hear this. Always upbeat. Memories from when we all were young become precious. My condolences.

Pat Swisher - June 13, 2025 at 02:26 PM

MS

“ 3 files added to the album Neal's visit with Jerry at Lake Conroe, Texaa



Mary Smolik - June 07, 2025 at 08:20 AM



“ Lynn Pinson lit a candle in memory of Neal Smolik



Lynn Pinson - June 07, 2025 at 02:38 AM

MS

“ 3 files added to the album Neal's visit to Jerry's home at Lake Conroe, Texas



Mary Smolik - June 06, 2025 at 09:05 PM