

## Daniel J. Smith

October 12, 1950 - October 2, 2023

Daniel J. Smith, age 72, of Storm Lake, Iowa died Monday, October 2, 2023 at Careage Hills in Cherokee, Iowa.

Memorial services will take place Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. Visitation will be held from 3-5:00 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to St. Croix Hospice in Spencer, Iowa, a cause that was close to Dan's heart. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Dan was a beloved partner, father, sibling, uncle, and friend who brought joy and laughter to all who knew him. Nothing personifies his legacy of cherished memories better than all the names he was known by: Danielson, Uncle Buck or just Buck, Danno, Smitty.

Born on October 12, 1950, Dan's life was a testament to the power of love, connection, and adventure. He was an avid traveler who found his greatest joy exploring the world alongside his life partner and best friend, Louise. Together, they embarked on countless journeys, collecting experiences, finding joy in nature, and forging a bond that will forever remain unbreakable.

Family was of the utmost importance to Dan. He enjoyed spending quality

time with his loved ones and making lasting memories through shared experiences. From holidays to simple gatherings, Dan's warm presence and sense of humor illuminated every room he entered. He had an extraordinary ability to make everyone feel like an immediate lifelong friend. A huge fan of all types of music--except country--Dan's soul lit up in the presence of captivating melodies. Whether it was as a lead singer in a fledgling rock band in high school, the thrill of attending concerts with his family and friends, or simply grooving to his favorite tunes, his passion for music was contagious. His vibrant spirit danced to the rhythm of life, and he encouraged those around him to do the same. A dedicated sports fan, Dan's heart belonged to the Hawkeyes and the Bears. He could be found cheering them on with enthusiasm while creating bonds with fellow fans that extended beyond the confines of the game. His passion for sports brought people together--minus the case of an inter-family Big 10 rivalry--and added a touch of camaraderie to every gathering.

In addition to his personal passions, Dan was deeply committed to his beloved community of Storm Lake. Serving as a city counselor, he dedicated his time and efforts to give back and make positive changes within his community. His commitment to public service showcased his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of those around him.

In addition to his devoted partner and best friend, Louise Schmeling of Storm Lake, Daniel is survived by his children: Jennifer (Mark) Smith Wyatt of Iowa City, Iowa; Erin (Greg) Bowers of Omaha, Nebraska; Meghan (Andrew) Peters of Columbus, Ohio; step-children: Amanda (Nick) Ehret of Ankeny, Iowa; Zachary (Amanda) Proczak of Storm Lake, Iowa; grandchildren: Emmerson and Ashlin Peters; Benjamin and Theodore Ehret; Latavia and Natalia Tong; Harmony and Teo Rodriguez; siblings: Tom (Lori) Smith of Storm Lake, Iowa; Patty (Paul) Mendlik of Waterloo, Nebraska; Jerry (Anne) Smith of Storm Lake, Iowa; Jim (Robyn) Smith of Thompson Station, Tennessee; numerous

nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Dan's departure leaves a void that can never truly be filled, but his legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. His kindness, sense of humor, and zest for life serve as an inspiration for us all to cherish our loved ones, embark on new adventures, and find joy in the simple pleasures of life, just as he did.

With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our deepest appreciation to the compassionate team at St. Croix Hospice. Your unwavering dedication, warmth, and care provided Dan with comfort and support during his final days, ensuring his journey was filled with dignity, love, and tranquility.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **14**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Memorial Service

OCT **14**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Daniel J. Smith*



-----  
**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - October 13, 2023 at 10:37 AM

HS

“ *Dan was an awesome guy , always enjoyed talking to him at IBP or out in the public or Wayback in the day at HyGrade Foods , he will be truly missed by many many people !*

-----  
**Howard Schultze** - December 16, 2023 at 05:28 AM

CR

“ *Chuck Jane Rauch lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



-----  
**Chuck and Jane Rauch** - October 14, 2023 at 10:43 PM

JF

“ *I knew Dan for along time his parents were my godparents so sorry for to hear he passed*

-----  
**Jo Fulks** - October 14, 2023 at 05:19 PM

JF

“ Jo Fulks lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Jo Fulks - October 14, 2023 at 05:17 PM

DL

“ Dan Was A Friend To All & Such,A Warrior Fighting Cancer . Sending Many Prayers To The Supporter & ❤️ Of His Life , Louise , & Family . 🙏❤️



Dave & Patti Lange - October 13, 2023 at 11:33 PM

DL

“ Dave Patti Lange lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Dave & Patti Lange - October 13, 2023 at 11:23 PM

DL

“ Dave Patti Lange lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Dave & Patti Lange - October 13, 2023 at 11:23 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 13, 2023 at 11:05 AM

DJ

“ Donna J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel J. Smith.

Donna J. - October 12, 2023 at 04:30 PM

MK

“ Mike Connie Kahnke lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Mike & Connie Kahnke - October 09, 2023 at 08:15 AM

JM

“ So sorry to hear of Dan's passing - I have fond memories playing in garage band (Gladiators) with Dan.

John Meyer - October 06, 2023 at 03:19 PM

JS

“ So sorry to hear of Dan's passing. Dan was a true ambassador to Storm Lake, as he was the biggest fan to bleed green and white. Time to go fishing. Be strong Louise. God bless you all.

Jason Stoltzfus - October 06, 2023 at 09:18 AM

AS

“ Amy S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel J. Smith.

Amy S. - October 05, 2023 at 05:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Smith.



October 05, 2023 at 02:54 PM

RK

“ Louise and family, my heart is broken with yours though I can't even comprehend the loss you must feel right now. Danielson was an amazing person who shared his love and allowed those around him to feel his love and joy for life. So many memories of so much fun. He will be missed and cherished forever. Renea

Renea K - October 05, 2023 at 11:24 AM



“ Treasured Memory - 8" x 7" Frame (Holds 4x6 Photo) was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Smith.



October 05, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel J. Smith.

October 05, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ Heather White lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Heather White - October 05, 2023 at 09:31 AM



“ Deborah Zerfoss lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Deborah Zerfoss - October 05, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ Vicki Ulven lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Vicki Ulven - October 04, 2023 at 01:18 PM



“ *Steph Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



---

**Steph & Sharon Mickelson** - October 04, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Wilbur/Karen Triplett lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



---

**Wilbur/Karen Triplett** - October 04, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Smith.*



---

October 03, 2023 at 09:12 PM



“ *Sally Rassler lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



---

**Sally Rassler** - October 03, 2023 at 09:06 PM

RS

“ Roger Pamela Schossow lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Roger and Pamela Schossow - October 03, 2023 at 08:51 PM

JD

“ John Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



John and Connie Demers - October 03, 2023 at 08:43 PM

AB

“ Amy Burnham sent a virtual gift in memory of Daniel Smith



Amy Burnham - October 03, 2023 at 07:59 PM

TR

“ tracy lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



tracy - October 03, 2023 at 07:59 PM

GH

“ *Gene Judy Halling lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



---

**Gene & Judy Halling** - October 03, 2023 at 07:38 PM

NH

“ *So sorry for your loss.*



---

**Nicki J Harrington** - October 03, 2023 at 06:19 PM

PG

“ *A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF DAN SMITH. OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO LORI & ALL THE FAMILY. MAY HE RIP.*



*JOY, PEACE & LOVE, LARY & PATTY  
GUNVILLE STORM LAKE,IOWA.*


---

**PATTY GUNVILLE** - October 03, 2023 at 05:56 PM

DD

“ So sorry for the loss of Dan. I was fortunate enough to know him through Louise and even got to vacation with their family and mine a couple of times. Dan was such a great guy to be around. He was funny and smart and one of the best humans a dog could ever know. His laugh was contagious and he was the type of guy who wanted to live life to its fullest. My sincere condolences to the family, the friends, and the city of Storm Lake.

Denise Derby - October 03, 2023 at 05:13 PM

 Janine Davis

“ Janine Davis lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Janine Davis - October 03, 2023 at 04:47 PM

GB

“ Gene Pat Barnett lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Gene and Pat Barnett - October 03, 2023 at 04:44 PM

BH

“ Barry Shelly Hammen lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Barry & Shelly Hammen - October 03, 2023 at 04:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel J. Smith.

October 03, 2023 at 03:54 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Smith.



October 03, 2023 at 03:54 PM



“ Dale Doris Wiley lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Dale and Doris Wiley - October 03, 2023 at 02:22 PM



“ Storm Tyson Fresh Meats Maintenance lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith



Storm Lake Tyson Fresh Meats Maintenance - October 03, 2023 at 02:21 PM

PF

“ *Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



Peg Flynn - October 03, 2023 at 01:13 PM

SM

“ *My condolences to the family of Dan. I got to know him by ibp/Tyson. RiP Dan*



Susan Mason - October 03, 2023 at 01:12 PM

SB

“ *Scott Bodholdt lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



Scott Bodholdt - October 03, 2023 at 12:30 PM

CR

“ *connie roche lit a candle in memory of Daniel Smith*



connie roche - October 03, 2023 at 11:46 AM