



Jeffery Lynn Smith

April 7, 1964 - January 7, 2026

- Dateline: Golden Eagle, IL

Jeffery Lynn Smith, 61, passed away peacefully at 6:27 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at his home in Golden Eagle, Illinois, with his wife holding his hand. Born April 7, 1964, in Salem, Indiana, he was the son of Bennie Harrison and Anna Elizabeth (Durnil) Smith Setser

On September 3, 2012 he married the love of his life, Tammie Lea Rister, she survives. Also surviving is a son, Jesse A Smith of Indianapolis, IN, grandchildren, Devon, Kai, Emilia, Cecilia of North Carolina and Syre of Indianapolis, IN, Sisters, Carolyn Burton of Sebring, FL, and Shirley Bush of Salem, IN. Along with his parents he was preceded in death by a Marine son, Dustin Ryan Rister, his second father, Jesse Setser and two brothers, Jerry Smith and Billy Smith.

Visitation will be from 12 noon until 4pm Saturday, January 17th, 2026 at Gent Funeral Home at 2409 State St in Alton, IL Burial will be at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St Louis, Mo along side of Marine son, Dustin Ryan Rister Tuesday, April 7, 2026 on his birthday. There will also be a celebration in Campbellsburg, IN Saturday April 11th, 2026 for his Indiana family and friends.

Jeff proudly served in the United States Air Force. After his military service, he worked as a merchandise execution associate for Home Depot, where he was known for his strong work ethic and steady reliability

Jeffery Lynn Smith lived his life with a full heart and an open hand. To Jeff, family was everything. He loved his wife, Tammie, with a devotion that never wavered. His friends were embraced just as tightly—if Jeff called you “brother,” you were family, and if he called someone “mom” or “dad,” it was said with genuine affection and respect.

Jeff found his greatest peace outdoors. Whether he was mountain biking, hunting, or simply exploring, he believed these moments in nature were his way of connecting with God. Adventure wasn't just a hobby for Jeff—it was a way of life, and he shared that joy freely with the people he loved.

Everyone who knew Jeff seems to carry a story about an unforgettable day spent with him. His energy, his humor, and his big-hearted presence made it easy to love him. He lived life ahead of schedule—always early, always prepared, always ready to help. If you called, he answered. If there was trouble, he ran toward it, not away. Jeff was steady in a crisis, loyal in friendship, and unwavering in his care for others.

He leaves behind a lifetime of memories, countless stories, and a legacy of love, courage, and adventure. Jeff was a planner, a protector, and a man whose spirit lifted the people around him. His absence will be deeply felt, but his impact will live on in every life he touched.

Having walked through two profound losses, the family kindly asks that memorials for Jeff be directed towards the families needs due to them being off of work for so long also to honor Jeffs memory the family encourages donations to the causes he loved—VFW Post 1308, Mission: American Gratitude, Rodney Cook, Military Riders, Terry Spurgeon, 5A's Animal Shelter, Rather than flowers or memorial items. The greatest comfort to Tammie during this time is the presence of friends and family, whether through a visit, a shared lunch, or simply time spent together. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home
2409 State Street
Alton, IL

Tribute Wall

MS

“ I remember when me and mr.jeff would watch mountain biking videos and have Bit -o- honey's.
He also showed me a turtle he had saved , and he released the turtle . He was a good man . A very good man. I'm sorry for your loss ms.tammie...

MaKlaine Stacey - January 17 at 02:33 PM

YF

“ Your ADT Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jeffery Lynn Smith.



Your ADT Family - January 15 at 11:25 AM

RH

“ Jeff was a good person. He married my niece, Tammie. We traveled to see the them in Indiana when they lived there. He had a plan for each day, and it was nice!! Had a lot of fun with Tammie and Jeff.

When they moved back to Illinois we saw them often. Life was too short for Jeff. God got a good and faithful man. We will miss him.

Robyn Herring - January 14 at 11:22 AM

KA

“ Kathy A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffery Lynn Smith.

Kathy A. - January 13 at 08:00 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Jeffery Lynn Smith.*



January 13 at 07:21 AM



“ *Tori & Lucy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffery Lynn Smith.*

Tori & Lucy - January 13 at 07:21 AM



“ *I always looked forward to getting with Jeff any chance I got , especially at Home Depot , planning a job or just looking for stuff , Jeff would always spend extra time just talking with me about bikes or jeeps or just whatever was going on. Always supportive and always excited to cheer me on in whatever I was doing. I really missed him when he moved away for a few years and now the circle of life has called him away as it does everyone . He will truly be sadly missed for a very long long time. Great man and friend. Fly high brother.*

Ricci Stassi - January 13 at 05:49 AM