



Jerry Smith

November 26, 1927 - June 27, 2020

Jerry Smith, 92, died on June 27, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City due to complications of a stroke. Jerry was a motorcycle racer from the age of 18 to 72 years old and continued riding a motorcycle until his last days.

Jerry was born November 26, 1927 in Johnson County, Iowa to Charles and Abbie Smith (Webber). He married Josefina "Josie" Smith, August 22, 1971 in New Orleans. Soon after the couple married, they embarked on motorcycle adventures from Iowa thru Central America and across the Panama Canal, then again in 1972. During these expeditions, Jerry was put in a Nicaraguan jail, yet due to Josie's bravery, they narrowly escaped before an earthquake all but demolished Managua. In Central America, they evaded thieves inside the Irazú Volcano, skillfully rode over metal beams in place of blown bridges, and were held at gunpoint in El Salvador until Josie convinced the gunmen they were of no threat. These were some of the motorcycle travels Jerry completed throughout 23 countries, to earn him one of the Highest Lifetime Mileage Awards on a motorcycle.

In 1975, Smith rode 8,752 miles diagonally across the continent of Africa on motorcycle. This trip included 250 miles across the Sahara Desert; 11 men started the trek and Jerry was 1 of 3 who finished. Additionally, he was a professional Flat Track racer, was inducted into the Motorcycle Dealer's Hall

of Fame, and competed in: Demolition Derbies, Sprint Car races, National Jack Pine Runs, the arduous Colorado 500 (16 times until he was 72), and was the author of two books. Both books describe the real adventures that comprised his life: "Into the Heart of Africa" and "Between the Seas; Josefina & I in Central America." This incredible life, yet Jerry Smith was not a strong athlete; he was a Polio survivor, with a crooked spine and limp to prove it. He owned Jerry Smith's Cycle Ranch for 48 years and was a dedicated member of the Hedrick Christian Church. Jerry was always grateful to the Hedrick community for being so kind, thoughtful, and friendly to him; they were like family.

Surviving is his daughter, Belinda (Andrew) Smith-Cicarella of Ottumwa and daughter Kathy (Martin) Morales with three grandchildren: Angela, Matthew, and Christina, of Austin, Texas. He was preceded in death by his wife, Josefina Smith, brothers Mike and Charles Smith Jr., nephew Dennis Smith, and his parents.

Funeral services will be Saturday, July 11th at 4 p.m. in the Fremont Funeral Chapel, with Pastor John Lewis officiating. Visitation will also be July 11th from 12 to Service time at 4 p.m. Fremont Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. According to the rules put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, proper social distancing and reasonable personal protective equipment is advised for attending a religious public event. The funeral will be live streamed at the Bates Funeral Home's YouTube Channel for those wishing to support the family from a distance. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Hedrick Christian Church.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXNkNnK_jvk

Previous Events

Family Visitation

JUL 11. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Fremont Funeral Chapel
Walnut and Main Street
P.O. Box 276
Fremont, IA 52561
(641) 673-7366
ffc@iowatelecom.net
<https://www.fremontfuneralchapel.com/>

Memorial Service

JUL 11. 4:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

TC

“ *Belinda due to Tom’s delicate lungs we will not be attending your dad’s memorial.*

My very first memory of your dad was when he still had his cycle business west of Hedrick at what we used to call the Hedrick Y. I worked at the truck stop as a waitress there during high school. He was a customer that would always come in with a smile on his face. Then when he and your mom moved into the house across the street from us he became a very good neighbor. I still remember the baby shower my mom hosted for you and your mom. How excited your parents were when you were born! Many trips occurred across the street between your home and ours as Aunt Lorean and her tag a long girls came over to play with you or your mom would bring you over to our home. Your dad was gone during the day most the time but I remember seeing him multiple times just melt when he would come home and see his little girl.

In later years I would run into your dad at various vendor shows while he was promoting his books. Again, he always had that beautiful smile and loved to visit. Many times Tom and I would see him in HyVee and marvel that he was still riding his trike bike. He was a great guy and it was my privilege to know him.

terri campbell - July 11, 2020 at 08:54 AM

TM

“ *I learned to ride a motorcycle on the track at Jerry Smith’s Cycle Ranch! Honda 50 that my dad bought. The whole family rode it! One time when my Dad took it to Jerry’s to get a tune up, he came home with a Kawasaki 125!! I didn’t know him personally, but I know my Dad liked him a lot and had great trust in him.*

T McElroy - July 02, 2020 at 11:38 PM

LM

“ Our dad bought many bikes at Jerry’s shop. We all loved going there to look at the new motorcycles. He was always so kind to the kids when they came in. My favorite bike was a Honda that I drove for years. Thoughts and prayers to family!

Laura Dunlavy McDonald - July 02, 2020 at 06:18 AM



“ I worked at Jerry's Cycle Ranch for a while, new Jerry before that and til the end. What an outstanding example of a good American. R.I.P.

Roger Weirbach - July 02, 2020 at 12:17 AM

EE

“ I bought a 1966 Honda 305 Super Hawk from Jerry in 1969 at Smith Cycle Ranch. He told me that it would probably be the best bike I would ever have. He was right...it was the only bike I ever owned! He also came to a Fremont Lions Club meeting and talked about his extensive travels with the motorcycle. He told about writing the book "Out of Africa" which I bought and enjoyed reading very much. Will sure miss that gentleman.

Edd Elder - July 01, 2020 at 08:14 PM

EE

Correction: Jerry's book was "Into the Heart of Africa"

Edd Elder - July 01, 2020 at 08:20 PM

LG

My mama Carolyn worked for Jerry for some time, in the mid 60'.. I loves that he had a track! I thought myself to ride on that track. Honda 50.. He was a nice man from what I remember him to be personally. My he Rest in Paradise

LuAnn Gosser - July 02, 2020 at 10:49 PM

BP

“ *The day Dad bought us a Honda 125 from Jerry Smith's Cycle Ranch was one of the most memorable in my life. Thank you Jerry for your service to the Cycle World. RIP*

Bruce Peiffer - July 01, 2020 at 07:40 PM

DJ

My Dad Robert Johnston took us kids to Jerry Smiths cycle Ranch all the time he bought alot of Kawasaki's there

Dave johnston - July 28, 2022 at 10:57 PM

RI

“ *On a outing with our church kids and we picked him up his car had broken down . He enjoyed being with the kids. And they enjoyed him as well he will be very much missed God Bless his family*

Ron and Mary Price from Delta Iowa - July 01, 2020 at 02:39 PM

CM

“ *Dear Belinda and Andrew, My sympathy to you on the passing of your dad. I remember his sweet smile and soft-spoken nature and how much he loved you and your mom Jose. Your dad also loved his motorcycles and had many successes and adventures with them. May God bless you with loving memories and many smiles as you reflect on his life. Sincerely, Cheryl Reish Miller, former neighbor & friend, Hiawatha, Iowa.*



Cheryl Miller - July 01, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Jerry Smith.*



June 30, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



April McKim - June 30, 2020 at 11:58 AM



“ *Marisol Ladrón De Guevara sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Smith*



Marisol Ladrón de Guevara - June 29, 2020 at 11:52 PM



“ *I enjoyed going with my brother Don Peterson to Jerry's motorcycle store. And sitting on the motorcycle's. He was a kind and gentle soul. He will be missed.*

Jonna Johnson - June 29, 2020 at 08:00 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Belinda Smith-Cicarella - June 29, 2020 at 01:49 PM

SB

oh my i loved both of these sweet people

sharon benson - July 01, 2020 at 02:03 PM

BS

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Belinda Smith-Cicarella - June 29, 2020 at 01:47 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Belinda Smith-Cicarella - June 29, 2020 at 01:46 PM

BC

That's a good picture!

Bill Cope - July 01, 2020 at 04:23 PM



Jason
McBeth

What an inspiration to all in this community, Jerry will be always loved and missed.

Jason McBeth - July 01, 2020 at 07:37 PM



CH

I remember that day and talking to Jerry at the park.

Carolyn Handy - July 01, 2020 at 08:46 PM



GM

I worked for Jerry and in joyed it very much. Will miss him as a friend and a boss. Gale Morris and Brandon I,m still ridding the the CB 750 he sold me in 1971

gale morris - July 06, 2020 at 09:26 PM



RL

“ *So many memories of Mr. Smith. Sad to see his passing. Condolences to his family and very close friends.*

Rodney Lappin - June 29, 2020 at 07:34 AM