

Dennis J. Smith

March 19, 1951 - September 3, 2007

Dennis Smith -- Bourbonnais Dennis J. Smith, 56, a local banker and community leader, died Monday (Sept. 3, 2007) at his home in Bourbonnais. He suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Mr. Smith was a former president of HomeStar Bank and managing director of HomeStar Investment Services. He served as a member of its board of directors and served as vice chairman of the board of HomeStar Financial Group, a financial services holding company. Mr. Smith began his career with the bank in 1973 following his graduation from the University of Notre Dame. He oversaw the expansion of HomeStar Bank (formerly Manteno State Bank) through acquisitions and new branches in Kankakee and Will counties and the addition of new services, including investments, insurance, title and trust. Mr. Smith was born March 19, 1951, the son of Francis W. Smith and Rita Keigher Smith. His father founded HomeStar Bank in 1946. He was a graduate of Our Lady Academy Grade School, Manteno; Bishop McNamara High School, Kankakee; and the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and finance. He remained an enthusiastic Fighting Irish fan throughout his life, often showing up in person to cheer on the Bishop McNamara and Notre Dame sports teams. Mr. Smith was a member of the University of Notre Dame Sorin Society. Throughout his 34 years at HomeStar Bank, Mr. Smith remained active in the community. He gave unselfishly to numerous nonprofit, education and community service organizations in

Kankakee County, including the Manteno Chamber of Commerce, the Manteno Rotary Club, the Kankakee River Valley Seniors Program, the Diocese of Joliet, Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee Community College, Bishop McNamara High School, the Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Catholic Church of Manteno, the Kankakee County 100 Club, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Kankakee, and Maternity BVM Catholic Church and School in Bourbonnais. Mr. Smith was elected to the board of trustees at Kankakee Community College, serving from 1990-2004 and held the positions of secretary and vice chairman. He was also a former member of the board of trustees of the Riverside Medical Center Foundation, the Helen Wheeler Mental Health Center, and the Catholic Schools Foundation of the Diocese of Joliet. He was past president of the Manteno Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Smith married Jill Blanchette Dec. 4, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Jill; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Francis Smith and Jean Smith of Manteno, and Jim Smith and Christine Kranz Smith of Washington, D.C.; a sister and brother-in-law, Madelyn O'Brien and Patrick O'Brien of Bourbonnais; one uncle, Patrick E. Keigher of Manteno (Jeanne); and a devoted group of nieces and nephews, including Bill Smith of Chicago, Pam Smith and Michael Smith, both of Washington, D.C., Kelly Smith Haley of Chicago, Michael O'Brien of Kankakee, Dennis O'Brien, Danny Smith, and Molly Smith, all of Washington, D.C. His parents are deceased.

Tribute Wall

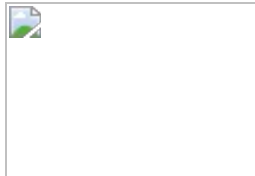
TA

“ My first symptoms of ALS occurred in 2014, but was diagnosed in 2016. I had severe symptoms ranging from shortness of breath, balance problems, couldn't walk without a walker or a power chair, i had difficulty swallowing and fatigue. I was given medications which helped but only for a short burst of time, then I decided to try alternative measures and began on ALS Formula treatment from Tree of Life Health clinic. It has made a tremendous difference for me (Visit w w w. healthcareherbalcentre .com). I had improved walking balance, increased appetite, muscle strength, improved eyesight and others.]

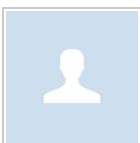
thato amelia - February 06, 2023 at 06:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album

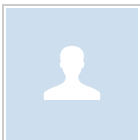


Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:07 PM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Scott Doris##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Jill, My thoughts are with you at this time in your life. i;½Take Care Monica##imported-begin##Monica Schiel Powell##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ We are so sorry to have missed the services for Denny in order to express our sympathy in person.

Denny left a big imprint on the people and organizations of his community, and we will miss him.

Our prayers go out to Smitty, Madeline, Mike and Nikki, especially.

Don and Lana##imported-begin##Don and Lana Shear##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



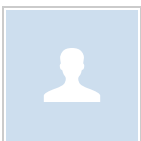
“ Smitty and Chris, so sorry to hear about Denny. ĩ½He was a great guy. Know that you will be remembered in my prayers. Please take care.....Barb##imported-begin##Barb Boudreau Hahn##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ I never had the opportunity to meet Denny, but I know that we was a wonderful man from everything that I have heard about him. ĩ½My thoughts and prayers are with ĩ½Denny's family.##imported-begin##Sarah Williams##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ While I did not know Dennis personally his brother Jim (Smitty) spoke highly of him. I will be praying for all of the family. GOD Bless all of you.##imported-begin##Tommy L. Berry##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ We have been praying for Denny & Jill for some time. One wishes that they have the power to make Denny's problem go away but this is God's plan and only God can take the pain away. ĩ½Our faith at this time is our mutual strength that holds us together. Denny you fought a good fight, God bless and keep you. ĩ½We'll see you again some day.

Dave & Bernie##imported-begin##Dave & Bernie Hansing##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



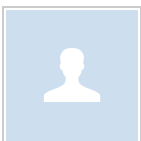
“ I didn't know Dennis for that long, but he made a profound impact on me. He was such a positive and affirming person. Just seeing him could brighten your day. He will certainly be missed.##imported-begin##Nickolas Allen##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Denny's family this week. ĩ½I remember him fondly.##imported-begin##Mary Baldwin##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Seeing Dennis' obituary brings beautiful memories of my four years, 1943 to 2947, spent as a border from Chicago at Our Lady Academy in Manteno.

My condolences and best wishes to his family.##imported-begin##Thomas J. Cullinane##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ My heartfelt sympathies to you and your family at this difficult time. Every story I hear of Denny is one of caring, dedication, leadership, and inspiration. May knowing how he touched so many lives be of comfort in this difficult time. You are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Becky Wilder##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



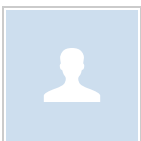
“ Our deepest condolences to all of Dennis' family. We wish everyone well and will have good thoughts for Dennis.##imported-begin##Sean McDonald & Whitney Conrad##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ I'm very sorry to hear about Denny. I will remember him forever, especially when I worked at the bank and saw him daily. He was always so well put together and a great role model for me at that time. He just made you feel very welcome whenever he was around. I'll keep Denny and the Smith family in my prayers.##imported-begin##Brodie Bertrand##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ I graduated from OLA with Denny in 1965. i½He will always be a part of my childhood memories. i½I was very sad to hear of his illness and death. i½I will keep him and his family in my prayers.##imported-begin##Patsy (Bilyard) Barnes##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Jill - Dawn and I would like to express our most heartfelt condolences over Denny's passing. He was truly a $\frac{1}{2}$ gentleman and we will miss him, particularly his quiet, unassuming manner and gentle smile.##imported-begin##Alan & Dawn Webber##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Denny left a deep impression with anyone who knew him. He will not be forgotten.

##imported-begin##Carm (Raspolich) Fogt##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Frank & Camille Carlson##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Dear Jim, I am out of town and can't attend, but want to let you know you and your family are in my prayers. $\frac{1}{2}$

Bob Schneider##imported-begin##Bob Schneider##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ It is truly with a heavy heart that I write this message. The world is a better place because of Denny's contributions and it will be a lonelier place because of his passing. I have had the privilege to call him my friend for 50 years. I will miss him. I will also remember all the fun we had at his house as kids. I spent alot of time there. His Mom and his family were just like family to me. It is to them I send my heartfelt sympathy as I am sure they are heartbroken at the loss of their dear brother. Also I send my sympathy to his nieces and nephews whose love and support was clearly shown during his life and illness. And to Jill please accept my deepest sympathy. Your strength was truly powerful. You are all in our prayers.##imported-begin##Wendell & Deb Provost##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Brock Luginbill##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



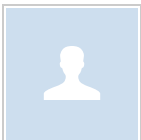
“ To the Smith Family:

May God's gift of beautiful memories fill your hearts and help to bring you comfort and peace.

Sincerely,

Bob and Jane##imported-begin##Jane Nalley##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Thanks Denny for all the good times and tix I... we sure had fun ... You truly were a GOOD GUY, God bless you and your family. Your friend, Clancy##imported-begin##Michael R. Clancy##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Bob and Deanne Ausbrooks##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Our prayers and sympathy are with the family.##imported-begin##Dorene and Jerry Hammes##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Dear Smith Family:

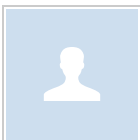
Please know that the entire Smith family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers. ï¿½Denny's battle with ALS was a courageous one; we recall how fond our Grandma Dorothy was of Denny. ï¿½May you find comfort in knowing that he is now at peace in God's hands.

Our Deepest Condolences:

Jeff, Trish, Eric, Alex, Aaron & Adrian Cavender

##imported-begin##The Jeff Cavender Family##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Dear Jill,

I send my condolences. ï¿½If there is anything we can do at this difficult time, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Claire Owen

Director of Patient Services

Les Turner ALS Foundation##imported-begin##Claire Owen##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Denny's family.##imported-begin##Dave and Sue Boudreau##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Jim and Chris,

We are so sorry for your loss and all of you are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##natalie craven##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Jill,

We have only recently become reacquainted. ĩ¿½

You and Dennis have been in my daily prayers for some time and will continue to be with the hope that it will help you ease the lose of your dearest.

Your kindness and generosity shines through to all you meet.

My deepest sympathy to you and the rest of the family.

Liz##imported-begin##Liz Becvar##imported-end##

September 04, 2007 at 06:13 PM