



Rodney E. "Rod" Smith  
September 30, 1938 - March 9, 2023  
Broadwater Beach

Rod was born September 30, 1938, in Ada, MN. He graduated from Ada High School in 1957 where he was on the track team and excelled at running hurdles. He joined the Navy in June of 1963 and was on active duty for two years. He did 32 years of reserve weekend drills retiring in 1997 with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He also served six week stints at various locations including Pearl Harbor, Korea and the Pentagon. Although he was a Sailor, he never enjoyed being on the water.

Rod and Nancy were married in October of 1963 and would have celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. Rod graduated from Moorhead State College in 1964 and started teaching in Hendrum, MN. In 1970, the family moved to Eagan and Rod started at Rosemount High School. He taught Industrial Arts there for 28 years, retiring with all ten fingers. Clocks were a specialty in his classes and many former students still have them hanging on their walls. He was a wrestling coach, worked the Friday night football games and participated in Boy Scouts with Randy. After retirement in 1998, he subbed at the middle school and high school for ten years.

Students called him Hot Rod or Mr. Rod Smith and he was a popular detention monitor during that time.

Rod loved spending time at the family cabins on Pelican Lake, driving his tractors, going to estate sales, shopping at Goodwill and collecting all varieties of things. He liked to read the Star Tribune and Wall Street Journal on a daily basis, watch public television and attend St. Paul Chamber Orchestra concerts. He enjoyed drinking coffee, Diet Coke, eating ginger snaps and talking to the puppies.

He was a strong union supporter and an even stronger Democrat.

Preceded in death by mother, Lucille Headley; father, Stewart Smith; stepfather, Si Pallum; brothers, Roger & Russell Smith; and nephew, Taif Trieglaff.

Survived by wife, Nancy Smith; son, Randolph (Mary) Smith; granddaughter, Rachel Smith; granddaughter, Celeste (Ryan) Edeker; great-granddaughter, Aoife Edeker; daughter, Rebecca Smith; sister-in-law, Ann Smith; sister, Shila Schumacher; niece, Michelle Schumacher; nephew, Mark (Joan) Schumacher, Logan; brother, Richard (Vivian) Smith; nephew, Ryan (Inara) Smith, Hayden; nephew, Rodmen (Kim) Smith, Kenley, Gracie; niece, Natalie Saatoff, Elizabeth; cousin, Mike (Marsha) Headley; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Charlie and Judy Leitheiser; nephew, Trent (Nancy) Leitheiser, Charlie and Olivia; nephew, Nate (Traci) Leitheiser, Ethan and Elijah; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Donny (Diane) Trieglaff; niece, Danielle (Scott) Link, Forrest, Dylan; niece, Jamon (Matt) Friendshuh, Ahzriel, Zariah, Michael, Bethany; canine companions, Rocky, Rowdy and Willy; and many other extended family, treasured neighbors and friends.

*Service will be live streamed and available for viewing at the following link:*

*<https://youtube.com/live/M9LNR9seU9A?feature=share>*

*Inurnment later at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery*