



Joanne E. Smart

January 2, 1947 - January 9, 2026

TIPTON- Joanne Elizabeth Smart, age 79, of Tipton, Michigan, passed away on Friday, January 9, 2026, at Toledo Hospital surrounded by her loving family.

Joanne was born on January 2, 1947, in Toledo, Ohio, the youngest daughter of Enar and Elizabeth (Berger) Johnson. She is a graduate of Woodward High School in Toledo, OH.

On March 15, 1968, she married Terry Smart in Toledo, OH. They relocated for Terry's job, and it was in Milan, MI that they raised their 3 lively sons. When it was time to retire, Evans Lake became home and they have embraced the "lake life" for over 20 years. Joanne and Terry have been blessed with 57 years together and he survives.

After their sons were older, Joanne went to work as a teacher's assistant at Paddock Elementary in Milan. For over 15 years, students benefited from Joanne's loving guidance. She demonstrated patience, compassion and a good sense of humor with everyone she encountered.

Joanne was a former member of Marble Memorial United Methodist Church; and more recently a devote member of Cross Point Church in Brooklyn, MI. She lived her faith by helping to empower and alleviate the suffering of others. Joanne was a talented quilter and crocheter, gifting many baby blankets over the years. Her wonderful baking skills were appreciated by both family and friends, with cookies and banana bread being her specialties. Joanne enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, and they were more than happy to eat

all the treats grandma provided.

In addition to her husband Terry, Joanne is survived by their sons, Brian Smart (Kristy Redfield), Craig (Rhonda) Smart and Jason (Ann) Smart; and grandchildren, Grace Smart, Wyatt Smart, Zeke Smart, Conner Smart, Saxon Redfield and Anson Redfield. She was preceded in death by her parents and older sister, Jean.

Following Joanne's wishes, all services will be private. She will be laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, where online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Tribute Wall

SG

“ *It was my good fortune -- and the good fortune of my students -- to have Joanne's warmth, humor, kindness, and guidance for many years at Paddock. Though it is many years ago, I remember Joanne's smile and laugh so clearly, they happened so often it's easy to recall. Very grateful to have known her and the entire family.*

Steve Gilzow - January 16 at 07:46 PM

MA

“ Terry and Joanne have been friends with my parents for decades. Terry was a groomsman in their wedding and this year they are celebrating 50 years. Even though their 3 boys were all older than my parents 3 girls, our families spent time together. I can remember making Terry laugh about how differently girls teased each other compared to boys. When I started dating, they welcomed Jerry to our church and family. They helped us prepare for marriage and helped in many ways for our wedding including letting us use their convertible to drive between the church and the reception and some great pictures!

Jerry and I lived out for state for ten years, yet will still kept in touch by going to church when we visited my parents. Then we moved back to MI with four kids ages 5, 3, 1.5 years, and 7 months. Moves rarely go as smoothly as one hopes, and this was no exception. We ended up living with my parents for a month in Milan while Jerry started his job in Kalamazoo because the house we were buying on sustained hail damage. When we could finally close, our moving company kept moving back the delivery date. During the week that we lived there with only camp mattresses, a chair and lots of active kids, Terry and Joanne came over for the whole day to help me. They brought kindness and left behind a meal and clean kitchen cabinets. It's a moment I so appreciated as a young mom.

Sixteen years later, I still appreciate that friends of my parents cared for me and my growing family continuing to welcome us to their lake for boat rides too. Thank you for showing that friends from church are family too.

Minde Artman - January 16 at 03:04 PM

RY

“ I'm so saddened by your loss, and sad that I lost someone that was like a second mom to me. When I think back on all the good times I had at the Smart house, Mrs. Smart is a central figure in those memories. Some of them may seem odd, but they are as vivid and special to me as anything. Little memories of her making peanut butter and jelly on toast (which was the first time I ever had it, and the only way I've eaten it since) Her making monster cookies while Jason and I endlessly played with GI Joes, or while I relentlessly beat Craig in NHL hockey. The times we all went shopping together and how I loved to make her laugh when I would say ridiculous things about Elvis.

As we got older, I loved her laugh so much and the looks she would give me that I made sure to say funny things just to get a reaction out of her, then I would put my arm around her and laugh. I'll never forget the look, and her shaking her head at my craziness. It makes me smile a bit just thinking about it.

The overwhelming thing I think of when I look back on the times I was lucky enough to be with Mrs Smart is just how selflessly kind she was. There were times I didn't deserve her kindness, but she gave me that and so much more. She treated everyone with kindness and such a warm heart.

I'm lucky to have grown up around the corner from her and to have her be part of my life forever.

I'm sorry to the Smart family she is gone. I know it's no condolence, but the love she shared, her kindness, and the memories of her will live with me and so many others forever.

Ryan - January 16 at 09:46 AM

DC

“ So sorry for you and your families lost. Dan Callaway we started at DTE same time. . Lineman

Daniel Callaway - January 14 at 12:08 PM

KV

“ Joanne and her family started as church friends in Milan and then they opened their home to us as young marrieds for meals and games and Bible discussions and always an abundance of kindness from Joanne . Always a lot of laughter with the young boys and Terry who all adored her. We will always remember you dear Joanne. 💕

karen VanWinkle - January 14 at 11:26 AM

TR

“ I grew up just a couple of blocks away from the Smarts in Milan and spent countless hours playing and having sleepovers with Craig. Whether it was having pool parties in summer or a house full of kids for scouting activities Joanne was always happy to make things fun for us. In later years Joanne and Terry lived down the street from my parents on Evans lake and, even though I'd moved out of state, I'd see them whenever I came to visit. Joanne played such a large part in so many of my happy childhood memories and was one of the few people who knew me for nearly my entire life that I just took for granted that she would always be here. I will miss her and my whole family has lost a very dear friend.

todd royal - January 13 at 12:57 PM

CP

“ Joanne was a kind and caring person who touched the lives of her friends and the many children she worked with at Paddock Elementary School. Heaven will welcome her gentle soul.

CAROL E PRESTON - January 13 at 12:03 PM

SH

“ *Joanne was such a wonderful soul so kind hearted. She will be deeply missed by us all. We had such good times at the lake, we will miss you forever. Your friends ... Steve & Gloria*

Steven Hanes - January 13 at 02:12 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joanne E. Smart.*



January 12 at 09:52 PM

TS

“ *Theresa, Jeremy, Kandi Sites purchased the Sympathy Meat & Cheese Gift Crate for the family of Joanne E. Smart.*



Theresa, Jeremy, Kandi Sites - January 12 at 09:41 PM

CP

“ *Joanne was such a caring and kind person. I am so grateful to have shared years of working with her during our time at Paddock. Heaven will truly welcome this gentle soul while we miss her on Earth.*

CAROL E PRESTON - January 12 at 09:05 PM

SH

“ *Joanne was one of my best friends. We spent five summers together sharing stories, photos of my new grandchild, and endless conversations. My heart is broken and the tears won't stop flowing.*

She was a beautiful soul and now God has her as His own, we are all God's children. God bless her and I am better for having known her. Gloria



Steven Hanes - January 12 at 08:38 PM

MA

“ *My wonderful Joanne it is Georgia. It breaks my heart to know u have passed! Such a gift to the children of Paddock! What a kind and caring person u were. U r living the best life now. Prayers to your family.*

MaryG Anderson - January 12 at 07:14 PM

CV

*Dear Terry, Craig, Brian, Jason, and families,
As written in her obituary, "...over 15 years students benefited from Joanne's loving guidance as a teacher's assistant." She surely was an out-standing gift to the students and staff who had the privilege of working with her. She was always positive, encouraging, caring, and kind to ALL. Her smile and warmth touched each person she met. It was a real privilege to have been a friend, co-worker, and Craig's Second grade teacher where Joanne helped as a room mother. What a wonderful family! Joanne left a legacy of love! My thoughts are with each of you.*

Carol Vollink - January 20 at 01:21 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joanne E. Smart.*



January 12 at 07:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joanne E. Smart.*



January 12 at 06:34 PM



“ *Terry, I'm so very sorry for the passing of Joanne. She was such a wonderful person. Both of you are. I still talk about the day that you both with Jim and Karen moved my family into your old house. Joanne and Karen were so very kind setting my kitchen up just as hers was while moving in boxes. My deepest sympathies and prayers to you and your family. She will be dearly missed.*

Nancy Krol - January 12 at 06:21 PM



“ *Joanne, we all loved you at Paddock at Paddock School. Your kindness and easy manner with the kids was a blessing.*
Sue Barney

Sue Barney - January 12 at 05:01 PM

MB

“*Joanne was such a sweet woman! She loved living at the lake and would post beautiful pictures of sunsets and swans. For several summers we canned bushels of peaches that we enjoyed in the winter months. You will be missed*□



Mary Cermak Betzoldt - January 12 at 01:55 PM

AD

Joanne was always attentive and kind. I can still hear her distinctive voice. I will remember all of the wonderful memories. She will be greatly missed. Lifting you all up in prayer!

Angie (Trolz) Dodge - January 12 at 04:45 PM

SS

Sending prayers to the Smart family. I worked with Joanne at Paddock in the Reading Lab for many years. We shared a lot of good times together. She will be missed. RIP my friend. 🙏

Sharon Snyder - January 13 at 06:51 AM