



## Norman James Smith

November 10, 1930 - March 5, 2017

Norman James Smith was born in Lansing, MI on November 10, 1930 to Sylvester and Esther Smith and passed peacefully in Grand Rapids, MI on March 5, 2017 at the age of 86. Norman was a devout Catholic. He was known as an honest, good ol' guy who always loved a good practical joke, and cared about his family and friends. He was dearly loved by everyone who knew him. He enjoyed playing golf in his younger years and later in life he and his wife Mary Jane enjoyed traveling, playing bingo and watching the Detroit Tigers.

Norman was a Marine and served during the Korean War where he received the Purple Heart Award. He was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Clare Knights of Columbus Post #3029, American Legion of Clare-Farwell #558, and VFW Post #3039.

Norman was preceded in death by his wife Mary Jane (Lea) Smith. Survivors are his sons, Mark Smith and Randy Smith; daughter, Debbie (George) Mason; step-sons, Charles (Debbie) Lea and Donald Zauner (Jill) Lea; and step-daughter Kathleen McCoy.

Graveside services will be held at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek, at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Norman on his tribute page at [www.PrayFu](http://www.PrayFu)

neral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR 9. 11:30 AM (ET)

Fort Custer National Cemetery  
15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012

# Tribute Wall

DM

“Dad I lost you once before a long time ago I guess maybe I wasn't part of the plan. Over the years I wondered how you were but mostly how I would feel if something were to happen to you and I had done nothing and wishing I had and living the rest of my life with guilt at the missed opportunity that I could never get back. Maybe I should have started searching for you sooner but maybe the timing would not have been right. I know you have regrets also but I am happy and thankful you and I have had these past 7 years to heal and when I found you, you actually needed me. I will miss your enthusiasm for your bingo, scratch off lotto tickets, baseball and that giant ball of string you were working on at the veterans home you were so proud of that. I am so very grateful we had friday together I didn't know that would be the last time I would see you. On earth anyway. I will find you again someday when we are both in heaven until that day RIP dad...I Love You, Debbie

Deborah Mason - March 08, 2017 at 02:01 PM



“Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norman James Smith.



March 08, 2017 at 09:01 AM

KJ

“He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I was able to spend many hours with Norman volunteering at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. His pride possession is that string ball (many hours putting sting on that). May he rest in peace. Kris J.

Kris Johnson - March 07, 2017 at 12:16 PM