



## Janet Rae Smith

August 24, 1937 - January 5, 2026

Janet R. Smith, 88, of Evansville, Indiana, passed away peacefully on January 5, 2026, surrounded by love.

Janet was born on August 24, 1937, to the late Loyd and Lola Topper. She was a graduate of Reitz High School and spent her life devoted to her family, faith, and community.

She was a wonderful mother and grandmother, generously helping care for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren through the years. She was always there to make and bring food and desserts for family gatherings and church functions, sharing her love through hospitality and care.

Janet was a faithful member of St. James West Church, where her son-in-law, Gene Backes, serves as pastor. She was proud to be a “Church Chick” and a Red Hatter, enjoying fellowship, friendship, and community.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Robert A. Smith; her daughter, Susan Backes (Gene Backes); and her son, Scott Smith (Rhonda Smith). She is also survived by four grandchildren: Jennifer O’Neil (David O’Neil), Andrew Backes (Andrea Backes), Chad Smith (Kalyn Smith), and Chelsea Stevens (Jacob Stevens); and nine great-grandchildren: Gabriel, Margaret, and Joshua O’Neil; Adalyn and Ava Backes; Caiden and Gemma Smith; and Elijah and

Olivia Stevens.

She is further survived by her sister, Sue Cloum.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings Leland Topper, Wayne Topper, Lois Huffman, Gail Oeth, Jo Ann Reeves, and Yvonne Winstead.

Funeral services for Janet will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at Pierre Funeral Home, Rev. Gene Backes officiating. Burial will follow in Park Lawn Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 9:00 AM until service time on Thursday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin. Street.

Condolences may be made online at [www.pierrefuneralhome.com](http://www.pierrefuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Park Lawn Cemetery

1526 S. Green River Road  
Evansville, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 8. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home  
2601 West Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 423-6471  
info@pierrefuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home  
2601 West Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 423-6471  
info@pierrefuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Janet Rae Smith*



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**Pierre Funeral Home** - January 07 at 01:37 PM



“ *Susie, Gene, and family, we are so sorry to hear about Susie’s mom. My mother always spoke highly of Jan and really enjoyed being around her. May you find peace and comfort as you grieve.*  
*Lynn and Brent Payne*

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**Lynn Payne** - January 08 at 12:11 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.*



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January 07 at 07:48 PM

SH

“ Scott and Letha Hines purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



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Scott and Letha Hines - January 07 at 03:39 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



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January 07 at 01:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



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January 07 at 12:39 PM



“ 161 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Pierre Funeral Home** - January 07 at 12:22 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



January 07 at 12:11 PM



“ *The Landwerlen Family* purchased the *Sweet Tranquility Basket* for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



**The Landwerlen Family** - January 07 at 10:07 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.*



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January 07 at 08:03 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.*



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January 07 at 08:00 AM



“ *So very sorry to hear this! She was a sweetheart of a lady! Hugs and prayers for the family!*

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**Brenda Pearson** - January 07 at 06:23 AM



“ *Kathleen K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janet Rae Smith.*

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**Kathleen K.** - January 06 at 11:55 PM

RS

“ Bob,

*Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family on the loss of Jan. She was such a lovely lady and we are so glad we got to know her. May your happy memories bring you peace and comfort.*

*With sincere condolences, Dick and Jan Seidehamel*

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**Richard Seidehamel** - January 06 at 10:19 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.*



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January 06 at 06:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.*



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January 06 at 03:24 PM

BR

“ *Bryant planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janet Rae Smith.*

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**Bryant** - January 06 at 03:24 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



January 06 at 03:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



January 06 at 01:41 PM



“ Your Keller Williams Indy Metro Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janet Rae Smith.

Your Keller Williams Indy Metro Family - January 06 at 01:41 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Janet Rae Smith.



January 06 at 08:26 AM