



Lawrence Russell Smith
1931 - 2017

The world became a little less bright Monday February 13, 2017. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce Lawrence Russell Smith has earned his wings and Heaven has opened it's golden gates for his arrival. Lawrence Russell Smith was born on March 10, 1931 along with his twin brother Lauren, to Russell and Dorothy (Budlong) Smith. Growing up, Lawrence lived and worked on the family farm in Temperance, MI with his 6 brothers and 1 sister and graduated from Ida High School in 1950. Prior to his affliction with Alzheimer's disease, Lawrence and his family lived on their family farm near Petersburg, Michigan until 2015. Lawrence enjoyed a long and beautiful life until he began a difficult battle with dementia. Throughout this battle he continued to "drive his truck", keep his spirits high, and always have his smile of love and devotion for his wife Elona. Lawrence always cherished visits by his children and grandchildren while living his final 2 1/2 years at the Goerlich Center in Sylvania, OH.

Lawrence was introduced to his wife, Elona Grady, on a blind date set up by his cousin Robert Leonard in 1953. He immediately knew Elona was the one for him they were engaged at Christmas that year, followed by their marriage on June 11, 1954 in Blissfield Michigan. To this union a son Mark Lawrence was born followed by a daughter Rosemarie, and a stillborn daughter Camellia.

In addition to farming, in January 1960 Lawrence fulfilled a childhood dream and began working his 2nd job driving truck. He drove for 33 years, retiring from Cassens Car Hauling in 1993. Lawrence never really retired. He then began hauling tomatoes for Ronnie Cousino of Erie, MI. Lawrence also drove for Leonard Farms of Samaria, hauling potatoes, and for Kreps Farms of Temperance, hauling grain.

Lawrence was a lifetime member of Morocco United Brethren Church of Temperance. He was always very involved in the church throughout his life teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, and always helping with nearly every need. Lawrence also served as Sunday School Superintendent, Trustee and Elder. Lawrence's faith always served as his direction in life. Everyone always knew that when help was needed, Lawrence could always be counted upon. Whether it was church, family, or friends, Lawrence would always make time to help when called. He was also a member of the Monroe County Farm Bureau.

Lawrence's hobby was his work and he was taught at a young age that a man kept his word. To him, a handshake agreement was just as good as a written one. Lawrence and Elona spent their 62 years of marriage working side by side and helping others. Whether it was helping out serving at the Toledo Rescue Mission or on vacation together, wherever Lawrence went he made a friend. We knew being Grandpa and Great Grandpa made him light up. His best gift to us was his witness and teaching us about the Bible. We all know from reading and believing John 3:16, we will all be reunited as a family one day in Heaven. Throughout his years on Earth he dedicated himself to being close to God and family. If you knew anything about Lawrence, then you know he was willing to give of himself when he could. He dedicated his life to Christ and was a Christian witness to many by his actions and deeds.

See Dad, you did it. You were a great husband, wonderful dad and grandpa, brother and farmer. Always giving back, setting an example for us all. Your truck is now parked and the last load has been delivered. Go now, receive the rewards for your service. Your job is done and you taught us well. We will take it from here.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 62 years Elona, children Mark (Chris), Rose (Greg) Vajcner, grandchildren Elissa (Adam) Cox, Danielle (Jordan) Sims, Brad Smith and Frank Vajcner. Great grandsons Carson and Declan, step great granddaughter Madison and future Great Grandchild due in July. Uncle Lawrence to a host of nieces and nephews. Also surviving are sister Faye Henry, brothers Herb, Keith (Dorothy), Wayne, And Carl (Kay). He was preceded in death by brothers Harold and his twin Lauren.

The family thanks the dedicated and loving staff at the Goerlich Center. Especially our "Sister" Regan Wynn. We are so grateful to all who have been so thoughtful and helpful to us over the past 2+ years and again now in our time of sorrow. May the Lord Bless each one of you.

Visitation will be held at Capaul Funeral Home Ida Michigan Thursday, Feb.16, from 1-8pm. A funeral and celebration of Lawrence's Life will be held at Morocco United Brethren Church, 1633 Jackman Rd. (Corner of Morocco and Jackman Roads) on Friday, Feb. 17, at 11am. Lawrence will rest at Bedford Memorial Cemetery in the family plot.

Memorials may be made to ProMedica Hospice, Morocco Church, Temperance MI.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone, for part of us went with you the day God called you home.

To send the family condolences please go online to: www.capaulfuneralhome.com.