

Decatur-John Q. Smith, 65, of Decatur, passed away peacefully at home on June 14, 2012 with his family by his side.

John was born June 27, 1947 in Riverdale, Illinois the son of James and Amber (Griffin) Smith. He graduated from Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois. He married Margaret Day July 3, 1981. The family, along with many friends, has lost a wonderful human being. His passions were outdoor activities from golfing, bicycling, walking, downhill skiing, watching sports on TV, and yard work. John loved cooking for family and friends. He lived to make others happy. His sense of humor and love of life will be greatly missed.

Coach Smith began his teaching and coaching career (basketball and golf) at Community High School in 1969 until 1999. He was the Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach at St. Louis Community College until 1997. While at St. Louis Community College, he was the Student Activities Director along with Multicultural Enrichment Director. His love of sports was evident with his local pursuit of enhancing participation, and his involvement in the Illinois Prairie State Games as Central Illinois Coordinator. He retired in June 2002 from St. Louis Community College. After retirement John worked part-time at Prairie View Golf Course, Countryside, Illinois and coached basketball at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Grayslake, Illinois. He and his wife loved to travel and some favorite places to visit were Breckenridge, Colorado and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. His life was interrupted, but while he was on this earth he embraced opportunities and the chance to experience life with open arms. His smile and charming ways can never be replaced. Jim was one of a kind.

Those who will miss Jim the most include his wife, daughters- Mary Sue Thompson and her husband Michael and Jennifer May and her husband John, stepdaughter- Susan Coventry and her husband Tim, stepson- Joseph Allen and his wife Beth, sister- June Bentley and her husband Herbert, a host of close friends, grandsons, granddaughters, other family members include in-laws, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, many nieces and nephews, and his Sigma Pi fraternity brothers.

He was reunited in Heaven with his parents.

Service to celebrate John's life will be held in the chapel of Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, Decatur, with Pastor Don Gentry officiating. Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, June 21, 2013 at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home. Burial will be at Swan Lake in Peoria. Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's or ALS Associations.

The family of John Q. Public is being served by the Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur, IL. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.