



Brian Stephen Smith

August 25, 2020

Volunteer firefighter and first responder Brian Stephen Smith, 56, of St. George Island, FL, passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, in the line of duty helping a distressed family of swimmers in the Gulf of Mexico.

Brian was born 1963 to Ruby and Rodger “Steve” Smith in Stamford, CT. The family relocated to Everett, WA, where Brian graduated in 1981 from Everett High School. Brian had a passion for billiards and fixing anything that was broken, but it was the call to serve and protect that was central to his life. After high school he served on the Montebello (CA) police department before moving to Arcadia, CA, where he met his wife Elizabeth ‘Beth’ Smith. They were married and shared two children, Byren and Rachael Smith.

The family relocated to Tallahassee and eventually St George Island, Florida where Brian turned his loves of ‘tinkering’ and helping others into a career in property management. Brian had a passion for animals, especially his beloved dogs Bad Bad ‘Leroy’ Brown and ‘Skye’ who were often seen at his side, in the fire truck, on the beach, or at local events. He was a coveted trivia teammate, a key volunteer for island fundraisers, and a good friend willing to listen to anyone who needed it. If something needed to be fixed, Brian was there. If you were feeling blue, it was Brian’s laughter that lifted you. If you were in trouble, it would be Brian jumping in to save you.

Brian loved being a fireman and first responder and was always a calm head in times of need. Since joining the department in 2015, he answered almost every call and was actively involved with many local fundraising events

including Chili Cookoff, Brewfest, and Pink Out. He never stopped looking for ways to help people in need. Brian cared greatly for others and showed his love to family, friends and his community through actions and service. He will be dearly missed.

Brian leaves behind his beloved wife of 33 years Beth, son Byren and daughter Rachael, mother Ruby, brother Russell and many other family members. He is preceded in death by his father Steve, and siblings Jaan Smith and Richard Bridges.

The Brian Smith Memorial fund has been established through Centennial Bank to support the family. Donations can be made at any Centennial Bank location. A memorial honoring his life and service will be held at the St George Lighthouse Park on Sunday September 13th, 2020, at 1:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Skip & Trey Young with Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel are assisting the family with their arrangements. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **13**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. George Lighthouse Park
St. George Island, FL

Tribute Wall



“ My heart goes out to all of you. Brian will be missed by so many people. I can still hear him and his Uncle Earl outside talking and laughing. He loved to bring the dogs over to his Uncle Ear's Doggy Day Care to play with Earl's dog Love. Brian and Earl could spend hours trying to "one up" each other. Now they are together again and Heaven is rocking to their laughing. Rest in peace Brian, and give Earl a hug for us. We love you bunches.



Susan Hogan - September 02, 2020 at 10:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Brian Stephen Smith.



September 02, 2020 at 10:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Brian Stephen Smith.



September 02, 2020 at 09:06 PM

JB

“ Earlier in January of this year on my way out for a run I started feeling not so great. My hubs & I took a divide and conquer approach - he'd call his brother (an MD) and I'd call Brian. After the decision made to call 911 it wasn't long before our yard was lined with first responders. Thank goodness no one was in our driveway cause Brian would have mowed them down!! I'm certain gravel flew and think we still have a bare spot from his truck tires. Second only to my hubs, Brian's face was the one I needed to see. He looked me in the eyes and said "you're ok". I knew he didn't know for sure but I didn't care; sometimes you just need a trusted familiar face. He took care of getting everything taken care of and stayed close til I was on my way to the hospital. He and Beth didn't hesitate when I needed their help pulling off an xmas gift surprise for my hubs even when I said 'bring your tall ladder'. The friendship btwn him and Jon was one of my favorite things to watch. They joked around, punched and poked each other like 12 yr old boys; and LAUGHED!! I will miss him at Thurs trivia, him being the calm in the midst of debating answers, and he didn't just keep score . . . It was like he was keeping a stats sheet!! Love and miss you!!!! Blessings.

Julie Bishop - September 02, 2020 at 08:58 PM

JB

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Julie Bishop - September 02, 2020 at 08:30 PM

RM

“ Remember driving Brian to Panama City to pick up his new truck and how his smile said it all when he saw it. On trivia night at Doc Myers Brian kept our score while the rest of us had no idea of the score. That was Brian we miss him so much. Roger & Mary Machin

Roger & Mary Machin - September 02, 2020 at 08:22 PM