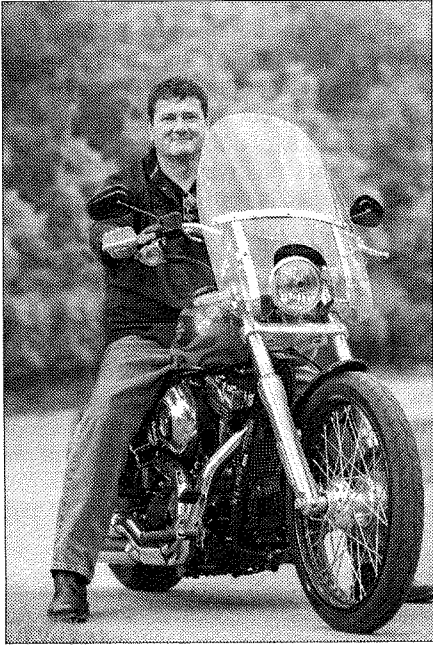


Kelly Ora Smith



Kelly Ora Smith, 58, of Grinnell, Iowa, passed away peacefully in his home on November 17, 2024, surrounded by his beloved daughter and furbabies. Born on January 6, 1966, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Kelly was a hardworking man of great strength, resilience, and compassion.

After graduating from West Union High School in 1984, Kelly pursued higher education before enlisting in the Army. During his military service, he was a Green Beret, exemplifying courage, discipline, and skill. Following his service, Kelly attended the Iowa State Patrol Academy, beginning a remarkable career with the

Iowa State Patrol. On November 9, 1990, he was proudly pinned as a State Trooper by his father, Virgil.

Throughout his career, Kelly held several specialized roles, including sniper, tactical team member, and Smith & Wesson armorer, demonstrating his exceptional expertise and dedication to his work. His achievements reflect his unwavering commitment to protecting and serving his community.

Kelly's proudest role began in 1997 when his daughter, Madilyn, was born. She became his pride and joy, and he devoted his life to creating cherished memories and teaching her everything he knew about life, love, kindness, respect, and independence. That same year, Kelly started "Maddy's Daddy's Candles," a business he created to honor Madilyn and support their future.

Kelly was a man of immense generosity and unshakable work ethic. He worked tirelessly, often seven days a week, to provide for his daughter and family. Kelly's love for animals was unparalleled. Over his lifetime, he rescued many animals and found great joy in caring for his two dogs, cat, and the birds and squirrels in his yard. His golden heart extended to all creatures, big and small, and he found solace in their companionship.

He is remembered for his unfiltered honesty, quick wit, and his remarkable generosity. When Kelly cooked, he would cook for an army—preparing enough food to ensure everyone could eat to their heart's content and still have leftovers. It was his way of showing love and care for those around him.

Kelly is survived by his daughter, Madilyn Smith of Grinnell, Iowa; his mother, Ellene Smith of West Union, Iowa; his sisters, Lisa (Keith) Carey and Leslie (Rodney) Hemry, both of West Union, Iowa; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Virgil Smith.

Cards of condolences and memories can be shared with Kelly's family online at www.smithfh.com or by mail in care of Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. If desired, memorial contributions may be made payable to his daughter, Madilyn Smith, for future designation.

GHR Monday and Thursday
11/28/2024
12/02/2024