



## **JAMES A. SMATH**

July 18, 1928 - October 27, 2021

MEMORIAL DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO:  
DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
DPD  
PO BOX 2539  
OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

MEMORIAL MASS:  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021  
11AM  
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH  
5635 BERKSHIRE VALLEY ROAD  
OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

James A. Smath, 93 years of age, of Oak Ridge, New Jersey, passed away on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

He was born on July 18, 1928 in Rahway, New Jersey to the late Helen (nee Dolechek )and Godfrey Smath.

Jim graduated from Rahway High School. Before attending college, Jim was very interested in foreign service, and was a member of the US Army Medical

Corp from 1950 to 1952 during the Korean War.

He then attended NYU and graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Jim then served with the American Red Cross in Vietnam from 1965 to 1967 and USAID in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

He was awarded the Medal for Civilian Service in Vietnam in 1967 and 1969 from the United States and the Social Welfare Medal from Vietnam for his distinguished service. Upon returning from the war, Jim was a Rahway Jaycee in 1970 and was named Citizen of the Year. He later wrote for various newspapers in New Jersey and Maine and also worked for the Westfield Post Office until his retirement in 1982.

Jim married Julia “Roberta” Arabia Bacigalupo in 1982 and resided in Rahway, New Jersey until 2003 where they moved to a log cabin in the Lake Swannanoa Section of Oak Ridge, New Jersey. In 2016, Roberta and Jim moved to the Jefferson Chase Senior Residence in Oak Ridge where they have since resided until his passing.

Jim was a member of two choirs, St. Mark’s Church in Rahway, New Jersey and St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Oak Ridge, New Jersey.

He was predeceased by his loving parents Helen and Godfrey Smath, and his dear brothers John, Joseph, and Jerome Smath.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife Roberta, his dear step children: Roberta Kleckner, Louise Perez, Anthony Bacigalupo III, and John Bacigalupo; his nine cherished grandchildren and his three adored great grandchildren.

A Memorial Mass will take place on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 11am at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 5635 Berkshire Valley Road, Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438.

Memorial donations may be made to: Department for Persons with Disabilities of the Diocese of Paterson, DPD, PO Box 2539, Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438.

Log onto [www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com](http://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com) tribute wall to personally post your condolences, memories, photos or videos, as well as driving directions to the church.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

NOV 1. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church  
5635 Berkshire Valley Road  
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438  
(973) 208-0090

# Tribute Wall

CO

“ Jim was our mailman in Westfield in the late 70s until 1982. It was near our first son David’s birthday and I had purchased Parent Magazine Press’ book *But No Elephants* by Jerry Smath. Jim offered to take the book to his brother and have it autographed. He returned it for David’s birthday along with Jerry’s signature and an inclusion “Your mailman’s brother.” We had 3 more sons of which Jim met two. We remember Jim as a friendly, caring, polite gentleman, and feel blessed that he was our mailman.

*His mother Helen Dolechek Smath, to whom Jerry dedicated the book (and may have been the model for “Grandma Tildy”) raised two wonderful sons that touched our lives.*

*With gratitude, Claudia & Peter Osborn*

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**Claudia Osborn** - November 02, 2021 at 06:49 PM

FT

“ Dear Roberta and family,  
Our heartfelt condolences. Jim and the Smath family were dearly loved by the entire Trickel family. Jim was exemplary in his faith and giving of himself to others, and we were privileged to have Jim serve as best man at our wedding 61 years ago. May all of you be blessed with cherished memories, as you now know Jim to rest in peace.

*Lovingly, Francis and Mary Trickel*

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**Francis and Mary Trickel** - October 31, 2021 at 10:01 PM

SR

“ Heartfelt sympathy, Prayers & Love to Roberta & family. Shirley & Hollander Ross

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**Shirley Ross** - October 29, 2021 at 03:47 PM

LR

“ *Love, Evelyn, Kathy, Jean & John Rafter purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of JAMES A. SMATH.*



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**Love, Evelyn, Kathy, Jean & John Rafter** - October 29, 2021 at 09:35 AM