



## Jerry Jay Smith

March 11, 1939 - July 18, 2024

Jerry Smith, 85, passed away peacefully at his home, July 18, 2024.

Jerry was born in Pittsfield, MA on March, 1939. He grew up on a small farm in Lee, MA with parents Caryl Smith and Otto Smith.

In 1957 he enlisted in the Navy and served on various submarines, including the Nautilus. It was during his 6 years in the Navy where he discovered his lifelong passion for SCUBA diving. On August 15, 1977 he married Joanne Fillio (Jo) of Otis, MA and spent the next 47 blissful years proudly married, telling anyone who would listen, that she was his “angel”.

He enjoyed and taught various outdoor adventure sports, including SCUBA diving and hang-gliding. Jerry and Jo opened a SCUBA store in Pittsfield, MA, now known as AST Scuba. Over the next 32 years he and Jo worked side by side, educating others, sharing their love for the beauty and mystery of the underwater world.

He's also credited for training emergency responders and establishing the Berkshire County Dive & Rescue Team, which began as a volunteer rescue team for all under water related emergencies. It has since grown and been restructured, with an end goal of a Regional Dive Team. Jerry was more comfortable in the water than on land and had even been known to

occasionally take short naps while SCUBA diving at decompression stops.

In 2014 he sold the business to his oldest daughter, Laurie, who also shared his passion. She continues to train the next generation of underwater explorers and support the public safety community. In his later years, Jerry and Jo moved to South Carolina and choose a new hobby of beekeeping and even making bee boxes. Although his love for SCUBA was strong, his love and pride for his family was above no other.

Preceded in death by his parents and younger brother David Smith. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Jo Smith, and his children Laurie Rock, Renae Perotti, Brandon Smith, along with Christine Jorolemon and Jay Smith from previous relationships, his adored goddaughters, Amanda Bowers, Kristin LeSueur and five grandchildren.

To celebrate Jerry's remarkable life, there will be two memorial services held for family, friends and extended scuba family:

#### SOUTH CAROLINA:

Tuesday August 27, 2024 from 5:00 pm – 6:00 PM at Travelers Rest Funeral Home with a 6:00 pm Celebration of Life Service in the Chapel, 113 North Poinsett Highway, Travelers Rest, South Carolina 29690

#### MASSACHUSETTS:

Memorial Services on Saturday October 26, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Dery Funeral Home, 54 Bradford Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

\*\*In lieu of traditional mourning, we request the joy of your company in bright colors, reflecting Jerry's vibrant spirit and enduring impact on our community and hearts.

'Lovingly Submitted by the family.'

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

AUG **27**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Travelers Rest Funeral Home  
113 N Poinsett Hwy  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
(864) 834-9953  
<https://www.travelersrestfuneral.com/>

## Celebration of Life Service

AUG **27**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Chapel - Travelers Rest Funeral Home  
113 North Poinsett Highway  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
[chip@travelersrestfuneral.com](mailto:chip@travelersrestfuneral.com)

## Memorial Service

OCT **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Dery Funeral Home  
54 Bradford Street  
Pittsfield, MA

# Tribute Wall

JJ

“ I've had the pleasure of knowing Jerry for over 2 decades via our work together at Camp Lenox in Otis MA. Jerry and his wonderful wife Jo and his extraordinary daughter Laurie have been impactful on me and the Moss Family. I always looked forward to Jerry and his family coming to open up the official beginning of summer at the H20front @ Camp Lenox. Jerry was very close to legendary Coach Moss founder of Camp Lenox, they spent many moons talking about life-2 grizzled self-made men! Jerry shared with us all about his out of body experience where had the choice from 'the devine maker' to be free from the pain he was enduring or go back to the mortal plane. He chose back to the land of mere mortals because he wanted to be with his devoted wife Jo. His ministry to spread 'the light' he'd encountered meant the "laying on of hands" to everyone he encountered-at the time of this epiphony he 'laid hands' on me, the Moss family and my waterfront staff...One thing for sure, if it's true that we have a doppelgänger, Jerry doesn't have a twin, for those of us that know him, we can attest there's only one legendary merman, Jerry Smith...I love you Jerry...bon voyage!!

James S Johnston - October 09, 2024 at 07:37 PM



“ Healing Tears - Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Jerry Jay Smith.



August 27, 2024 at 09:39 AM

BS

“ Bryan, Laura, Kinsley and Chase Shirley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Jay Smith.

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**Bryan, Laura, Kinsley and Chase Shirley** - August 27, 2024 at 09:39 AM

CB

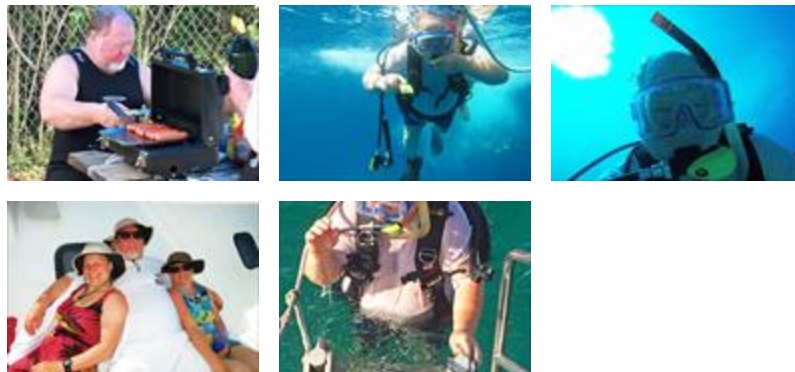
“ With all the memories I can think of , Diving Flat ground ( Rockport ) in the fog . We were both so excited ( and keeping the current in back of are heads ) we dove and the lobsters were big in know time we had 7-10 5-8 pounders , well here comes to funny part , neither of us took a compass reading ! I came up and happened to think I saw something I swam for it and luckily was an antenna on boat ! After getting in boat I heard Jerry and fog was so think while heading boat towards voice I passed him and never saw him . Jerry had dropped his lobsters and was sitting on bs with it tied to a lobster buoy , Got him in boat did a dive to try to grab his lobsters , and we laughed how bad it would look if the students had seen us get lost ! We were the perfect dive pair we were in the same ocean lol . I had stayed in touch with Jerry but hadn't heard from him in a bit and I have been dealing with medical issues and was deeply saddened learning of his passing , my thoughts and prayers to the family . RIP Jerry

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**Chris Blanchard** - August 12, 2024 at 01:49 PM

MB

“ 7 files added to the album Bahamas 2018



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**Mark Briggs** - August 08, 2024 at 09:38 AM

RP

“ *It didn't matter if it was 2 days or 2 months since the last time you'd seen Daddy, you always were greeted the same big smile and embracing hug, EVERY TIME.*



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**Renae Perotti** - July 31, 2024 at 01:42 PM

JS

“ *Dear Jo & family, we're so sorry for your loss. You and Jerry certified both Lester and I back in the late 80's & we all did many dives together. Jerry was always larger than life & fun to be around & we have great memories of those times. May he rest in peace and your memories comfort you. Sincerely Lester & Johanna Shaw*

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**Johanna Shaw** - July 23, 2024 at 07:18 PM

MR

“ So sorry for everyone's loss. I recieved my dive certificate from AST Scuba around 1991. Over 34 years ago and I will never forget how he made the class so much fun. Serious but FUN! And it is hard to make a dive test in Onota lake fun.. I will be keeping his family and friends in my prayers. 🙏

Marie Russell - July 21, 2024 at 03:58 PM



“ Dear Jo, family and friends of Jerry,  
On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans, we offer our sincere condolences at Jerry's passing. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are always saddened whenever a fellow "Bubblehead" departs on Eternal Patrol. He served with honor on the USS Corporal SS-346.

To our "Brother-of-the-Phin" we say, "Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch. Fair Winds and Following Seas." Thank you for your service to our country.

Jo and family... "may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you." 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (ESV).

Jim Sandman, FTC(SS) Ret,  
National Chaplain, USSVI.  
[www.jimsandman.com](http://www.jimsandman.com)

Jim Sandman - July 20, 2024 at 09:48 PM

JP

Jerry was super strong and could bend over backwards to the ground all that he would challenge at this game

James Poole - July 30, 2024 at 10:28 AM

CH

*Conch we gathered a foot apart covering the sea floor for miles. So we filled a dive bag and both of us swam back to the boat only after leaving the shallow water the weight made us drop the bag. Jerry dove down and took out a bunch so we could get to the boat*

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**Chuck** - August 01, 2024 at 12:26 PM

WL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**wade Lewis** - July 20, 2024 at 09:34 AM