



## James Edward Smedley

August 26, 1942 - September 25, 2024

James Edward “Eddie” Smedley 82 of Thayer Kansas passed away at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

James Edward Smedley was born on August 26, 1942 in Thayer, Kansas to Albert and Dorothy (Kirk) Smedley. Eddie was a proud graduate of Thayer High School in 1960. On January 22, 1961 Eddie married Joyce Ann Burgan at the Thayer Christian Church. The two enjoyed 41 years until Joyce’s passing on February 14, 2002. Eddie then married Mary Ellen Zaragosa on September 20, 2003; she survives of the home.

Eddie worked at Frito Construction and Beachner Construction as a Superintendent for 46 years until he retired in 2004. Eddie was very active in his children’s and grandchildren’s activities. He coached many teams through the years and attended every ball game and school event. He also loved to hunt, fish, garden and spend time outdoors. He spent countless hours in the watermelon patch harvesting the delicious Smedley Watermelons.

He is preceded in death by his wife Joyce, granddaughter, Cami Umbarger, great grandchildren, Hollie Betts, Jaxon Betts, and Averie Betts, sisters, Betty Smith and Helen Fogel, brother, Sonny Smedley, stepson, Barry Welch, and his parents.

Eddie’s memory will carry on with his wife, Mary Ellen, children, LaDonna Umbarger (Mike), Cindy Colbert (William), Dee Botkin (Vernon), and Terry Smedley (Ruby), stepchildren, Tina Byers (Mike), Jess Welch, and Shelly

Barnow (Rob), brother, Vernie Smedley (Glenda), 25 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at the Thayer Christian Church on Tuesday, October 1st with the family greeting friends from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Funeral services will be held at the Thayer Christian Church on Wednesday, October 2nd at 10:00 with burial immediately following at Thayer Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be left to Countryside Funeral Home. To leave the family a special message of condolence, please visit, [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **1.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Thayer Christian Church  
8495 Dorn Rd  
Thayer, KS 66776

## Service

OCT **2.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Thayer Christian Church  
8495 Dorn Rd  
Thayer, KS 66776

# Tribute Wall

YF

“ Your RMC House Sup Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of James Edward Smedley.



Your RMC House Sup Family - September 30, 2024 at 07:57 AM

AS

“ So many memories with you Grandpa from doing cartwheels in the yard together from asking you if this is an “Ed story” or if it was for real to when you told me you were “Fast Eddie” to a few years later you said you were just “Steady Eddie”. We will miss you so much but we know your health has been struggling for years. Tell Grandma Joyce, Cami and the kids we said we love them!

Amber Stout - September 27, 2024 at 09:59 PM

TC

“ Tim and Dedra Cavaness. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Edward Smedley.

Tim and Dedra Cavaness. - September 27, 2024 at 07:39 PM

TC

“ Tim and Dedra Cavaness. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Edward Smedley.



Tim and Dedra Cavaness. - September 27, 2024 at 07:39 PM