



Matthew Brian Smith

April 11, 1972 - September 9, 2025

Matthew “Matt” Brian Smith

April 11, 1972 – September 9, 2025

Matt Smith passed away unexpectedly September 9, 2025 at age 53. He was a beloved father, brother, son and friend. His battle with alcohol ultimately claimed his health, but it never defined the whole of who he was.

Matt was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Maureen (Sweeney) and William Smith. He arrived early at just 32 weeks, weighing only 3 pounds, 10 ounces — but even then he showed the grit and stubborn determination that would follow him all his life. He was big in spirit, never letting his early start slow him down.

His parents separated and both remarried. His step-mother, Margaret, was an important influence in his life and he loved being an older brother to his siblings Erin and Tom. He spent his younger childhood in Philadelphia before moving with his family to Holland, PA, at age 13. He attended Holland Middle School and later Council Rock High School in Newtown, PA. A lover of words and ideas, Matt pursued English at Rutgers University, where he served as editor of the student newspaper *The Gleanor*. He married Jennifer Eckert in 2004, and together they raised two children, Grace and Lawson, who were his proudest accomplishments. He took deep pride in their accomplishments and

cherished being their dad.

In 2008, Matt furthered his career path, earning his Juris Doctorate from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was on the Hamline Law Review and earned the award, Best Oralist which he was quite proud of. He went on to work in compliance for several insurance companies, where he was respected for his dedication to ensuring ethical practices and fairness for customers.

Matt's life had challenges, but there was also love, humor, and perseverance. He will be remembered for his intelligence, dry wit, strong opinions and devotion to his children. He was quick with a joke, sharp with his insights, and endlessly proud of his family.

He is survived by his children, Grace and Lawson Smith; his parents, Bill and Marge Smith, and Maureen (Bernie) Legenski; his siblings, Erin (Michael Melchior) Smith and Tom (Brooke) Smith; William Smith, Jr, nephews Graham, River, and Griffin; and his former wife, Jennifer Smith.

Matt's family and friends will cherish his memory and the impact he made during his too-short life. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and perseverance, and he will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him. If you are struggling with depression or addiction please know that you are not alone and help is available. FindTreatment.gov or 1-800-662-HELP. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in his name to a charity of your choice.