

Harry A. 'Butch' Smart

Longtime Alaskan Harry A. Smart, "Butch" as he was known to family and friends, went to be with the Lord on Monday, Oct. 2, 2017, following a long and courageous battle with C.O.P.D. Beloved father, son, brother and friend, Harry was born Oct 2, 1949, in Coulee Dam, Washington, to William R. and LaVera M. Smart, the middle child and only son.

He came to Alaska in 1961 with his family, arriving in Fairbanks on June 30 with only \$5 left in pocket change, combined among his family members, after a difficult journey from Washington over the Alaska Highway. They were following his dad's dream to see Alaska. Except for the years he spent in the Army, Butch called Fairbanks home. He graduated with the class of 1968 from Lathrop High School.

His love for the great outdoors was shared with many. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, gunsman and all around outdoor sportsman. His last employment was as the outdoor recreation coordinator on Fort Wainwright. He loved to create outdoor adventure programs to share with the soldiers and their families. His family laughed and often commented that he 'worked' himself into his "dream job" by showing up where he knew groups would be landing after a hunting or fishing trip and greeting them with an Alaska dinner already prepared for them. He often commented on how he loved his job and joked how difficult it was to get up and go to work.

Butch's love for the great outdoors was only surpassed by his love for his son. William R. Smart "Billy" a.k.a. "Sheriff Bill." Butch was a single parent and his son was born and lives with some extreme challenges, but together they persevered and faced each one together. He was proud of Billy and proud to call him his son; they were truly tied at the hip. Butch was Billy's biggest fan, his hero and favorite fishing partner. Billy shares his dad's love for fishing and he can spot a moose as quick as his dad and never forgets a single one.

A Vietnam veteran, Butch spend three tours overseas in his 10-plus years of active duty. One thing that haunted him was the sad truth that 50 percent of his male classmates of his high school graduating class never returned home from the war. He was extremely active and [*this is all there was*]