



# Rudolph Howard Smith III

NOV 21, 1955 - DEC 28, 2025



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# Rudolph Howard Smith III

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**R**udolph (Rudy) Howard Smith III, 70, of Spring Hill, Florida, passed away on December 28, 2025. Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Rudy grew up in Old Bridge before moving to Spring Hill in 1986. He graduated from Cedar Ridge High School in 1974 and went on to study in the trade industry, becoming a true “Jack of All Trades” who could build or fix just about anything.

Rudy was a loving husband to his wife of 46 years, Lori, and a devoted father to his son, Rudy IV. He was known for his generous spirit, his love of nature, and his passion for helping animals—often rescuing strays from roadsides and construction sites. (He even once brought home a monkey, but we won’t talk about that!) Recently, Rudy dedicated himself to protecting gopher turtles in his neighborhood from urban development.

A botanist at heart, Rudy cultivated his plants with great care. He was also an excellent chef who found his greatest joy in cooking for others. A lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan—despite joking that “they’ve sucked for the past 30 years”—Rudy never lost his sense of humor. He loved relaxing with his favorite TV show, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, often saying he could relate to almost every episode.

Rudy was an amazing brother and friend who could talk you out of dark places with his infectious laugh and sometimes twisted sense of humor. His ability to lift spirits and bring joy to any room was one of his greatest gifts.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rudolph Howard Smith Jr., whom he lost too soon and spent his life striving to emulate. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lori; his son, Rudy IV; his mother, Margaret (Alma) Smith; his sister, Barbara Base; and his uncle, John Frankowski.

Rudy’s warmth, humor, and generosity touched everyone who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.



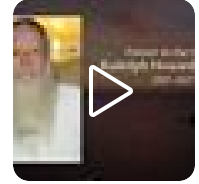
# Tribute Wall

**Rudolph Howard Smith III**

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**Grace Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home** shared a **Video**.



January 7 at 10:14 AM



**Lori Smith** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



February 20 at 9:31 AM



**Lori Smith** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



February 20 at 9:25 AM



**Mile Lacava** sent a virtual gift in honor of Rudolph.



Rudys passing was a hard one for me. I always thought of him as a younger brother to me. We first met in the 60s when we were teenagers. In the 70s, we worked construction together for years. In the early 80s Rudy moved to Spring Hill Florida. I ended up moving to Tampa Bay in 1988. All through the years we kept in touch with each other we talked on the phone all the time. I remember when he first started growing his beard when Obama was president and he said he wasn't shaving until Obama was out of office lol I remember telling him Obama's not President anymore shave that shit off your face. We work together again at In The News wood shop for years when Obama was president. I have lots of memories. Rudy was my longest friendship. I had a special ring tone on my phone and I knew when I answered it, he would always say "what are you doing" Rudy was a true family man. He loved his family. His family was everything to him. It took me a month and a half to come on here and write this. I miss the hell out of you, Rudy I lost another brother, you were truly my best friend. I pray someday we meet up again in afterlife and pick up where we left off. Till then rest in peace, my brother 🙏❤️. Mike

January 7 at 1:44 PM



## Tribute Wall

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BL

**Barbara L.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Rudolph.



February 6 at 3:56 PM



**Lori Smith** shared 9 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Rudy growing up through the years.



January 7 at 1:44 PM

BB

**Barbara Base** posted:

What do I say about my brother, my rock, my best friend, my source of sanity in this chaotic life. I just want to pick up the phone and say "what are you doing"? That's how we started every phone call. We could talk for hours! We would talk about the past, like the story about the monkey, what we were doing for the day, what we were making for dinner, or where we were going to eat, and sometimes we would end the conversation with a long distance shot of Fireball. I so wished we weren't so far apart, I missed the days when we'd go out on the boat, prepare meals together then just sit with some cocktails and talk. Now I miss those phone calls, I will always miss them. Life will never be the same, I will never be the same. The long rides in the car are long and lonely now, I used to call you to kill time. Sundays seem to drag on forever since with no phone call. You could always pull me out of a dark place with a good laugh and your infectious, twisted sense of humor. I counted on that every single time. I hope you hit those gold streets on two wheels. Hope your mansion in the sky's got a ten-acre field. With some mud and some hubs, you can lock in. Make some thunder, make 'em wonder how you got in. Hide your beer, hide your clear from the Man upstairs. Crank it loud, hold it down 'til I get there. And when I do, I hope you got some new stories to tell. 'Til then, give Heaven some hell. "Give Heaven Some Hell" By Hardy

January 12 at 1:41 PM

MP

**Maria Policastro** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Just one of our great memories.....Had so many..You will be missed..We love you



January 7 at 8:46 PM



## Tribute Wall

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C

**Colleen Brown** posted:

Hearing about Rudy's passing after all these years brought back a flood of memories from our teenage days back in Old Bridge, NJ in the 1970s. The 711 gang !! They were the cool guys! Though we lost touch long ago, it's clear he lived a rich and meaningful life. My thoughts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time. May he rest in peace, Colleen Hussey-Brown

January 7 at 2:55 PM



**Audrey Incorvia** posted:

There are so many memories and good times with Rudy and you Lori! He's forever in our hearts!

January 7 at 2:35 PM

LS

**Lori S.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Rudolph.



January 7 at 1:44 PM



## Media

**Rudolph Howard Smith III**

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Grace Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

January 7 at 10:14 AM





## Media

**Rudolph Howard Smith III**

NOV 21, 1955 - DEC 28, 2025



Lori Smith shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 20 at 9:31 AM





## Media

**Rudolph Howard Smith III**

NOV 21, 1955 - DEC 28, 2025



Lori Smith shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 20 at 9:25 AM





## Media

**Rudolph Howard Smith III**

NOV 21, 1955 - DEC 28, 2025



Lori Smith shared 9 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 15 at 7:01 PM





**Media**

**Rudolph Howard Smith III**

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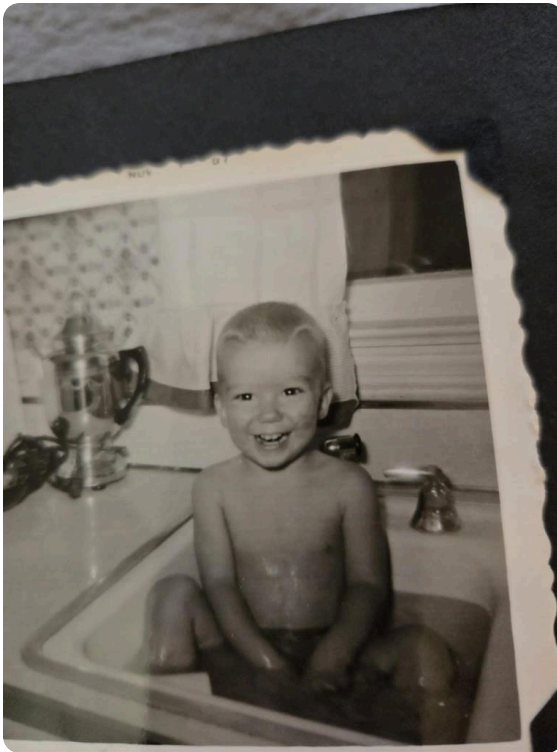




**Media**

**Rudolph Howard Smith III**

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Maria Policastro shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 7 at 8:46 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Rudolph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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