



## Peter W. Smith

February 23, 1936 - May 14, 2017

Peter W. Smith, 81, of Lake Forest, Ill., passed away on May 14, 2017. He is survived by his wife Janet, three children, Linda (Ransom), William and David Smith, and three grandchildren Tommy, Sara, and Ryan Ransom.

For more than 40 years, Peter directed private equity firms in corporate acquisitions and venture investments. As Managing Member of DigaComm, LLC, from 1997 to 2014, he led or co-led 15 early-stage venture investments, including iPIX and L-90, Inc. From 1975 to 1997, he was President of Peter W. Smith & Company, Inc., a firm that led 12 buyout transactions, including Donnelly Marketing, Inc. and Hunter-Melnor, Inc. Previously, Peter was a senior officer of Field Enterprises, Inc., a diversified communication company held by the Marshall Field family.

Peter's active involvement in public affairs spanned 60 years. A quietly generous champion of efforts to ensure a more economically and politically secure world, he worked with the Atlantic Council of the United States for 12 years, as board vice chair, treasure and finance chairman. Other policy organizations in which Peter was active included the Heritage Foundation, Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Brookings Institution. He served as national chairman of the College Young Republicans and in later years was involved in fundraising for the Republican National Committee, GOPAC, and candidate and state party organizations.

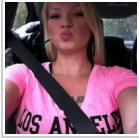
Peter was a loyal friend and mentor to many who became part of his life through his wide-ranging business and public affairs initiatives. He was an

unwavering source of help and inspiration for members of his [extended] family. In business and political matters, he was adept at bringing people together and negotiating agreement. Among his guiding axioms: "What one says does not count; it's what the other person hears that counts." "There are no mistakes in life, only lessons learned."

Peter will be remembered by his family and others who knew him well as someone who demonstrated through countless kindnesses that he cared more about others than himself.

A private family memorial service has been planned. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to a favorite charity. Please share a memory or send condolences at Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest at [www.RTfunerals.com](http://www.RTfunerals.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Peter was a selfless person with integrity and a heart of gold. God bless and be with his family and friends always.

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**Brittany Sprague** - November 15, 2024 at 09:42 AM

JA

“ I work in the Four Seasons restaurant and will miss Mr. Smith's frequent visits and kind demeanor. He was always courteous and polite. Patient and kind. Our interactions are what I will remember of Mr. Smith, most importantly, his sincerity. I'm not sure if he was sick or if this was sudden, but shocking nonetheless. I'm sorry for your loss, dear family. I hope you find comfort in everyone's kind words regarding Mr. Smith. May he smile upon you all eternally.

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**Janette** - June 01, 2017 at 11:35 AM

JS

“ As those before me have said, above all, Peter was a man who always put others before himself. I was fortunate enough to work with Peter for the past two years, and I know for sure that he made a permanent impression on me. Whenever Peter set out to do something, he did it with 100% integrity, a keen eye, and an incisive wit. He was more than just the best boss I could ever ask for; he was a mentor, friend, and model human being. I am deeply saddened and wish that I could spend more time with him, but I am lucky to have fond memories of the time we spent together. My best wishes and sincerest condolences go out to his family and those who knew Peter. He lived a full life and set a positive example for us all.

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**Jonathan Safron** - May 26, 2017 at 03:31 PM

TL

“ Peter Smith was simply one of the most concerned and generous individuals I have ever known. He was also the acid test for whatever business concepts many of us may have found engaging at a given time. Many would evaporate in the face of a few gently delivered but devastatingly acute questions from Peter. And in an age of unreturned phone calls and unanswered emails, no matter what priority the sender put on them, Smith got to all of them promptly and responded. Courteous and remarkably effective in everything he did, I am sure others reacted as I did. His example improved my own interactions both personal and business. A great friend, a fine business associate and a true patriot, while Peter’s absence will leave a void, the memory of him will remain bright and welcome. He will not be forgotten.

Thomas H. Lipscomb  
New York

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Thomas H. Lipscomb - May 26, 2017 at 11:45 AM

FC

“ My condolences to the family. I enjoyed working with Peter at both Donnelley Marketing and DigaComm. He was always generous with his time and insights in helping all of us and will be respectfully remembered for his grace and dignity. Best, Frank Connolly

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Frank Connolly - May 23, 2017 at 08:41 AM

JE

“ Peter was a great businessman with a heart of gold . When my son was attending DePaul he let me use an office when up from Naples. Those times were magical and filled with energy every day talking to business leaders from all walks and trips to check out opportunities of the most unique businesses. The times at the 4 season bar with Jimmy Patrick Nic and Paul were magical times that will never be again! Peter may you enjoy your new life in eternity and your family be blessed

*Jane, John and Clayton Elliott, Naples, Florida*

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**john elliott** - May 22, 2017 at 06:47 PM

CM

“ I have had the privilege of knowing Peter for over 25 years. We met when I was in my Sports Medicine fellowship with Dr. Andrews. Peter was a great person who cared for our country and believed in the greatness of our American Healthcare Delivery System. Peter was always supportive and encouraging in my endeavors to help transform our healthcare delivery to a truly Patient-Centered System. I will truly miss his friendship. My deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends! Christ Pavlatos MD, MBA

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**Christ Pavlatos MD, MBA** - May 22, 2017 at 04:05 PM

MR

“ Always a solid and loyal Friend, who mastered the art of listening.

*Merrick S. Rayle*

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**merrick s rayle** - May 20, 2017 at 02:16 PM

CO

“ Peter was a great American patriot who helped me enormously in an ongoing investigation of the Clinton family charity frauds. I appreciate his counsel, his insights, and his dedication over decades to truth, liberty, and appreciation for all that distinguishes this nation and our people from others. I will miss Peter, but I will always cherish his memory. My deepest sympathies go out to his family and to his many friends. Sincerely, Charles K. Ortel.

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**Charles K. Ortel** - May 20, 2017 at 08:44 AM