



## Randall Steven Smith

August 10, 1976 - August 30, 2024

Randall Steven Smith, lifelong Washington State resident, passed away too young on August 30, 2024, in Moses Lake, WA at the age of 48. He was born August 10, 1976, in Tacoma, Washington to Dorathy W. Smith who preceded him in death earlier this year on May 9, 2024, and his father Ronald S. Dorrah in 1976 prior to Randall's birth. Randall, known by others as Randy, graduated high school through Washington State Job Corps in White Swan, Washington in 1996. He was raised with his sister in Puyallup, Tacoma, and then Port Orchard, and Ephrata, WA areas before entering Job Corps to complete his high school education. Randy was so much more than people in Moses Lake got to see. Randy loved animals and his favorite was a golden retriever he named M.D. Randy had a knack for mechanics and loved to cook. As a young child he would bake pies and desserts with his Uncle William R. Zaikawsky (deceased), and fry donuts from Pilsbury biscuit dough. Throughout his life, Randy loved 80's rock'n'roll which always seemed to brighten his spirit. He was one of the kindest and most generous people we have ever known. From 1992 until 1995, Randy's mother Dorathy was married to the owner of the State Central Speedway racetrack which brought him and the family to Ephrata, WA to run the racetrack together. He loved the action of the races and helping cook food in the concession stands. After Job Corps training was completed, Randy moved back to Port Orchard, and then to Moses Lake with Dorathy after being diagnosed with a mental health disorder. He was able to work for quite a few more years, until his mental health prevented him from

keeping a job. Randy stayed close to his mother and the family through the years. About two years ago, Randy began Kidney Dialysis for a genetic disease called Polycystic Kidney Disease. The same disease his mother had. With mental illness, kidney disease, diabetes, and congestive heart failure affecting his life, medication management and a proper diet were crucial. Because his mental health dominated his life, his family was unable to manage his needs, and he ended up homeless in 2023. This is sadly the only way many in our community came to know him.

Randall's family begged Washington resources from medical doctors to APS to the Attorney General's office for help. With no success due to a woefully ineffectual and impotent system that seemed, almost by design, to neglect and victimize the people it is supposed to help. Over the last year, with Randy homeless, it made keeping up with his needs nearly impossible. Randy died without ever receiving the help he so desperately needed. Laws with their minimal standards of competency made it impossible for mental, medical, and social work professionals to evaluate Randy's competency and needs and the family could not find answers from any contacts on how to get this done.

Randy suffered to death very slowly and very lonely because no one could manage his mental health or living situation and APS could not investigate because he did not meet their limited criteria for Adult Protective Services. He was over 18, but under 60 was the most limiting though it was clear to all professionals that interacted with him that he was not competent and needed help. Even becoming well liked and cared about amongst first responders and some health care professionals in Moses Lake. Randy's quality of life could have been helped and his health managed and life prolonged if the mental and medical health laws supported a more practical approach for medical providers and families to work together to get competency evaluations sooner rather than later. Not only did Randy suffer, but we as his family suffered with him and still suffer with the fact that we didn't know how to help him the way he truly needed, and the state laws and policies prevented him from getting the help he deserved.

Despite the failure of the Washington State Mental, Medical, and legal systems because of these laws that make it too easy for loved ones with mental illness to fall through the cracks and die as my brother did, there were countless individual professionals within these systems that saw his suffering and tried to help as best they could. From kind words, to food, to clothes, to red Gatorade, to a little money, to a blanket, to letting Randy just sit in their lobbies; these were priceless gifts of mercy and showed real humanity. “The one showing favor to the lowly is lending to Jehovah, And He will repay him for what he does.” Proverbs 19:17 New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures

Randall Steven Smith was a son, brother, uncle, grandson, nephew, and friend. He was and is loved. He is now resting in Jehovah God’s memory, and I know we will see him in the resurrection, healthy and perfect, lacking nothing. “And I have hope toward God, which hope these men also look forward to, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.” Acts 24:15 New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures

Thank you to the individuals within these professional departments who helped him in this community: Moses Lake Police department, Moses Lake Fire Department, Life Flight teams, Samaritan Hospital ER and admitting teams, Confluence Internal Medicine, CW Hospital staff, Fresenius Kidney Care team, Renew Services staff, Key Bank Staff, and individual friends on the street who helped him rather than exploit him. It can be too easy for the homeless and mentally ill to be frustrating and forgotten. You all helped as you could, but I know you all wish you could have done more. We can only hope that those who helped my brother will take what you learned in his situation and pay it forward, meet people like him where they are and think about how you can be a positive help to them and their families. The care you showed for Randy is priceless and will never be forgotten. “They asked only that we keep the poor in mind, and this I have also earnestly endeavored to do.” Galatians 2:10, New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures

Randy was preceded in death by his Father, Ronald S. Dorrah of Puyallup, Mother, Dorathy W. Smith of Eatonville (Moses Lake), Uncle, William R. Zaikawsky, and Cousin, William Rusty Zaikawsky.

Randy is survived by his Sister, Elizabeth W. Kraft of Moses Lake, Brother-in-Law, Matthew P. Kraft, Niece, Micah W. Cruz of Moses Lake, Nephew, Cameron J. Cruz of Moses Lake, Aunt, Suzanne Cunningham, Cousins, Extended family, and Paternal family to include half-siblings.

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ I do not know Randy nor the family but the Holy Spirit moved me to read his obituary which I do not read stranger's obituaries. It was so touching and illuminating without bitterness but obviously much sadness and frustration throughout a trying journey. You loved him and the Lord released him and you, not without heartache and loneliness. He is at peace. May your hearts be nurtured in your grief.

Judy J Allen - September 20, 2024 at 01:43 PM

CH

Hi Dorothy and his sister and the rest of the family I know I may be the last person that you want to know hear from but I am sorry that you lost your son and your brother to God because nobody would be willing to help him and I know I try to I do miss seeing him walk around town and everything I tried my best to help him and get him to do what he was supposed to do but I'm also sorry things didn't work out between him and I as roommates but he was a good person by heart I do try my best to be a good person by trying to help other people out just like you do

Chris hall - October 09, 2024 at 12:46 AM

GG

“ I didn't know your family member, but I am extremely saddened by your obvious grief and frustration with our failed system. This is a beautiful memory and very informative to public for huge gaps from our government many deal with. Your brother was mistreated, and I am sorry. One does not often read such a detailed well spoken memoir. Bless you over and over again!!

Glenda 

Glenda Gaudet - September 19, 2024 at 10:26 PM

RM

*I came to say the same. I am an advocate who works with parents of children who have serious behavioral health concerns that cause them to struggle in their daily lives. To Randy's parents, I am praying for you all. We don't know each other but I shed tears for you because my son has big struggles too and could just as easily fall into the same system cracks that failed Randy. I am so very sorry for your loss. If you would like assistance finding advocacy pathways in which you could elevate Randy's story to drive system change, I am happy to help. You can reach me at [richellemadigan@wsccsupport.org](mailto:richellemadigan@wsccsupport.org).*

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**Richelle Madigan** - September 25, 2024 at 09:43 AM

EK

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Elizabeth Kraft** - September 19, 2024 at 09:23 PM