



## Roger Smothers

February 12, 1950 - March 2, 2017

Roger Smothers, 67 of Kankakee passed away March 2, 2017 at Presence St. Mary's Hospital surrounded by his loving family. He was born February 12, 1950 in Mt. Vernon, IL to Harry R. and Jessie M. (Lile) Smothers. Roger married Phyllis "Gayle" Fisher February 29, 1968 in Paxton, IL.

He was a Union Iron worker for Local #465/444 for 40 years and retired in 2012. AT the age of 53, Roger began running in marathons. He ran a total of 118 and 52 of those were run in one year. Roger was a member of the River Valley Christian Fellowship. He was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and enjoyed watching them win the World Series with his family.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis "Gayle" of Kankakee, 4 sons; Ty Smothers of Kankakee, Scott Smothers of Manteno, Josh Smothers of Kankakee and Jeff Smothers of Kankakee. Also surviving are 5 grandchildren; Chelsea, Zack, Ryan, Hailey and Callie, a sister; Raeline Smothers of Nebraska, 3 brothers and 2 sisters-in-law; Robert (Lori) Smothers of Effingham, Jimmy (Susie) Smothers of Effingham and Mark Smothers of Bloomington.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, a brother; David Smothers and a sister; Rhonda Smothers.

The visitation will be Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 4pm to 7 pm at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel. There will be a visitation Monday, March 6, 2017 from 9am to 12 pm at Johnston Funeral Home in Ina, IL. Burial will follow at Fitzgerald Cemetery, Ina, IL. Memorials may be made to River Valley Christian Fellowship.

Please visit [www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com) to sign his online guestbook.

# Cemetery Details

## Fitzgerald Cemetery

Ina, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel

1900 W. Court St.

Kankakee, IL 60901

(815) 932-2421

<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Roger Smothers*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Roger was one of my older cousins and was more my oldest brther, less age but I enjoyed visiting with him when our families got together. Those were the greatest of times growing up.when my parents would announce we we were going to Kankakee to visit as they had 7 kids and so did we.I now live in Oregon and haven't seen Roger and Gayle for a few years but will miss him.*



**Janice grigg** - March 10, 2017 at 11:44 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss and so sorry that I did not learn about his passing until this Monday and to say I was shocked would be an understatement. I would have came to his service! Had I known. We sure had a lot of great times playing pool years ago. Lance Marczak*

**Lance Marczak** - March 08, 2017 at 12:57 AM



“ *I've been at several Mainly Marathon events when Roger was running his marathons! He was tenacious in completing his events and always encouraged the rest of us too! I am sorry for your loss. Mary White*

**Mary** - March 04, 2017 at 08:45 PM

LG

“ *Gayla, and boys, I'm so sorry for your loss. We have spent A lot of time in church together when I lived up north. Praying for peace for each of you.*

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**Lisa Gibbs-Duncan** - March 04, 2017 at 07:06 PM

MB

“ *Ty and Scott and family. Very sorry to hear about your dad. Prayers to you and all your family.*

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**Mike Berns** - March 04, 2017 at 05:12 PM

RS

“ *May all your hits have eyes, and your trails be flat. RIP "old man" until we meet again.*

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**Ronald "Duffy" Sieling** - March 04, 2017 at 02:49 PM



“ *A wonderful man.*



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**Dan Brattin** - March 04, 2017 at 01:26 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of Roger's passing. Always remember his kindness and support as I was beginning my walk with the Lord. May God embrace the Smothers family with His comfort during this time of loss.*



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**Michael Bourrell** - March 04, 2017 at 07:21 AM



“ RIP, brother Ironworker. 🙏



Mark Stipp - March 03, 2017 at 10:07 PM



“ So SAD to hear one of my favorite Mainly Marathon family has passed. He had the sweetest smile and kindest nature. I'll always remember him with a smile in my heart. Run on, Roger. We'll meet again someday.

Condolences to Gayle and all of his family.

Deb Greene - March 03, 2017 at 09:03 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear that Roger has passed. Seeing him at various MM series--always a big smile. Keeping you all in my thoughts.

Sabra Kurth - March 03, 2017 at 07:24 PM



“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Roger's passing. He will forever be remembered by me running long, long miles. He was a sweet and quiet soul. We ran the rainy Appalachian series and spent a lot of miles in the rain. My condolences to the family. He will be missed.

Dee Dee Urquhart - March 03, 2017 at 07:20 PM

TS

“ *RIP to a very good and old friend. Hope you are running marathons and the bases in Heaven!! We'll miss you!*

Terry Sirois - March 03, 2017 at 04:43 PM



“ *Roger was liked a second Dad too me as far as I remember living just 2 houses away on Clinton in Bradley. He was there for me when I became a member of social brothern church and coached me on the youth basketball and adult church softball . He tried to get me a coaching stop at the school he worked . He was a good man a good friend and was a great father to Ty,Scott and to the youngest two J's boys. And after Roger became a pastor he got to see his own family raised up and fellow church family as well being a good husband to Gail. So rest in peace my friend my Coach my pastor we will all miss you oh so much*

Keith Jensen - March 03, 2017 at 08:10 AM

JF

“ *My heart felt condolences to Gayle and the family. I am so sorry to hear about Rogers passing  
May he rest in peace*

*Judy Dugan Fisher*



Judy fisher - March 02, 2017 at 07:29 PM

CG

*Condolences to Phyllis (as we know her) and family. Roger came into our lives when the two of you began participating in Kankakee area running events and social activities.*

*I always enjoyed visiting with Roger and as time went on, became amazingly impressed with his marathoning adventures. He was not a real speedy 5K runner due to his later age beginnings with running races, but had the rare ability to run the same pace for 26 miles, something much faster and younger runners could not accomplish.*

*Rogers life left me with pleasant memories and we send God's Blessings to All in the Family,*

*Charlie and Joyce Grotevant*

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**Charlie Grotevant** - March 02, 2017 at 08:23 PM

LM

*Condolences to Gayle and all the family. We will miss Roger on our No Grater Love trips to share the gospel with lost souls. We are praying for you all. May God send His peace and comfort for the days ahead.*

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**Lynn Metz** - March 02, 2017 at 09:14 PM

DC

*I am so saddened to hear of Roger's passing. I have fond school memories of Roger and Gayle. May God give you comfort and peace during this difficult time.*

*Debby (Medler) Cotton*

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**Deborah Cotton** - March 03, 2017 at 03:13 PM



*Fond memories of seeing Roger at various Mainly Marathon events. Always a friendly smile and steadfast perseverance.*

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**Kelly Pfannenstiel** - March 03, 2017 at 07:19 PM



*RIP, Roger, you will be deeply missed. Prayers, love and light for Gayle and family.*

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**Hannelore Burleson** - March 03, 2017 at 07:28 PM

NO

*So very sorry for your loss.... prayers for you all!*

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**Nancy OKane** - March 03, 2017 at 10:04 PM

RN

*Roger and I battled each other in many marathons and he usually beat me. He was a machine when it came to running. I will miss him.*

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**Rand Nielson** - March 04, 2017 at 09:13 PM