



“TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS”

Past State Presidents

John. B. Flannery

Nelson Navarra

William H. Smith, Jr.



Dr. John B. Flannery, Jr.

Past State President

1980-1981

William H. Smith Jr.

Past State President

1995-1996

Dr. John B. "Jack" Flannery, Jr., Past State President, Past Grand Inner Guard of Webster Fairport Lodge #2396 died at the age of 73 on February 2, 2015 surrounded by his family. He leaves his wife of 46 years, Linda; 3 children, John B. III (Kristine), Lynn Howlett and Jennifer "D-D" Lazenby; 7 beloved grandchildren, Elise, Sadie and John B. IV Flannery, Casey, Caitlin and Nicholas Howlett, and Noah Lazenby; 2 sisters, Mary Flannery and Elizabeth (Ret. Admiral Glenn) Whisler; nieces and nephews.

A retiree of Xerox after 33 years of service, John was a graduate of St. Vincent College and earned his Masters and Doctorate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He was a Charter member of Webster Fairport Elks which was instituted in August of 1968 and served as Exalted Ruler in 1970-71. While serving as Exalted Ruler he founded the Webster-Fairport Elks Lodge Annual Recognition Dinner for fire, police and ambulance personnel in the Webster-Fairport area. This event has over the last 45 years recognized and honored hundreds of first responders for their efforts to provide a safe and secure environment in their community. He served as State President of NYS Elks Association in 1980-81 and the Grand Lodge as Grand Lodge Inner Guard in 1990-91.

John was a forty year survivor of cancer and was a founding member of Support for People with Oral, Head and Neck Cancer at Wilmot Cancer Center in Rochester. This organization is dedicated to helping those individuals, their families and friends, deal with the struggles associated with this form of cancer.

John was also an avid and active stamp collector and he held various positions on the American Philatelic Society's Board of Directors.

Dr. Flannery's leadership, varied interests, enthusiasm for his community and passion for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never be excelled.

Nelson Navarra
Past State President
1991-1992

Nelson Navarra, 91, a resident of St. Ann's Care Center, Webster, N.Y. and formerly of Watertown, died peacefully March 16, 2015.

A funeral Mass was held on Monday, March 23, at Holy Family Church and was followed by Entombment with military honors at the Glenwood Mausoleum.

Calling hours were held Sunday, March 22, at Hart & Bruce Funeral Home, 117 N. Massey St., Watertown. Members of the North Central District conducted the Elk's Memorial Service at the funeral home.

Nelson was an Army Veteran of World War II, having served from Feb. 11, 1943, to May 25, 1945, in the African and Italian campaigns. He and his twin brother, John, participated in the battles of Salerno and Anzio invasions. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Nelson was a long time employee of the U.S. Postal Service, Watertown, and Postmaster of the Brownville Post Office. He served as Treasurer of the Watertown Postal Credit Union for many years.

He was a member of the Watertown Elks Lodge 496, B.P.O.E. for 71 years, served as New York State Elks Association President in 1991-1992 and District Deputy of the B.P.O.E. North Central District. He was a member of the Italian American Civil Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1400, and the American Legion Post 61.

Nelson was a communicant at Holy Family Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Sister Kathleen Navarra, SSJ of Alabama; a son and daughter-in-law, James and Cheryl Navarra, Webster, NY; a daughter-in-law, Susan Haefner; a half brother Joseph Navarra and a half sister, Ann Marie Agosta; five sisters-in-law, Antonette Navarra, Stella Navarra, Mary Navarra, Rose Frattali, and Lucy Trumble; six grandchildren, Trevor(Megan) Navarra, Philadelphia, Pa., Jessica (Chad) Keller, Fisher, Ind., Julie Navarra, Charlotte, NC, Brian Enck, NYC, Kevin and Allie Enck, Webster, NY; four great-grandchildren, Milo and Cora Keller, Esme and Keaton Navarra; and many nieces and nephews

Nelson was predeceased by his loving wife of 68 years, Clelia Frattali Navarra; his parents Joseph and Francesca DiLiberti Navarra; his step-mother Marianna Navarra; five brothers, William, Dominic, Jacob J., John and Leo; and three sisters, Frances Navarra, Betty Lawler, and Theresa Mentry.

**“We shall meet, but we will miss him,
There will be the vacant chair
But though we no more possess him,
Still our hearts his memory bear.
But awhile ago we gathered
Friendship beaming in each eye,
Now the golden cord is severed,
He has passed to realms on high”**

Ticonderoga/Keeseville/Plattsburgh. William H. Smith Jr., originally from Ticonderoga, and later a resident of Keeseville and Plattsburgh, NY passed away at his home in Murrells Inlet, SC on February 5, 2015. He was 73. Bill was born in Ticonderoga, NY on September 14, 1941, the son of William H. and Virginia (Noon) Smith.

He graduated from Ticonderoga High School in 1959, then served four years in the U.S. Navy, and was honorably discharged in 1964.

He earned an associate's degree from Champlain College in Burlington, VT, and a bachelor's degree from Empire State College in New York.

On September 4, 1965, he married his high school sweetheart, Carolee Carter.

Bill worked as an insurance adjuster for several years, then spent the next 30 years with Northern Insuring Agency, first in the company's Keeseville office and then in the Plattsburgh office. Following his retirement, he trained as a real estate appraiser and worked in that field until he and Carolee relocated to South Carolina in 2011.

While Bill enjoyed a successful career, his life was very much about serving others. He was active in community organizations from the day he joined the Cub Scouts until the last days of his life, always hoping to make life a little better for someone in need.

The list of his activities in the North Country is long and some of his favorites include: president of the Keeseville Jaycees; one of the founders of the Keeseville Hockey Association; announcer for AVCS basketball games; founding member, past president, and a Paul Harris Fellow of the A.M. Rotary Club in Plattsburgh; service with the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce; and Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

When he and Carolee began snowbirding in the Myrtle Beach, SC area, Bill began volunteering for that area's Habitat for Humanity, and more recently, for Help 4 Kids of Horry County. Bill's most extensive service activity was as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. A life member of the Keeseville Lodge, he held numerous posts in the lodge as well as on the district and state level. He was elected President of the New York State Elks Association in 1995-96 and continued as a member of the New York State Advisory Board until his death. However, Bill always said the position that meant the most to him within the Elks was his three-year term as state chairman of the National Foundation Committee. And none of those official positions mattered to him as much as supporting many charitable organizations and private personal commitments to helping others.

Still, these were not the most important things in his life. Those have always been his family and his faith. His daughter, Jennifer Smith Compagni and his son, Mark Smith, were the light of his life. When they brought Joseph Compagni and Linda Kamisato into the family, the two became equally as cherished. And when granddaughter Gabriela Compagni was born, she was instantly his special joy.

An altar boy since he was 7, Bill was a devout Catholic. A communicant at various times of St. Mary's in Ticonderoga, the Catholic Community of Keeseville and St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, he was most recently a member of St. Michael's Parish in Surfside, SC.

An avid golfer, Bill made six holes-in-one. He was, at different times, a member of Ausable Valley Golf Course (where he won a club championship), Bluff Point Country Club, Adirondack Golf Course, and the Barracks in the North Country. He loved each of those courses as well as the many great friends he played with. In South Carolina, he fell in with a terrific group called the Flounders and, for the past few years, played as often as he could with his new golfing buddies. Two highlights of his golfing life came when he turned 70 and his son took him to play golf in Ireland, while his daughter managed to score tickets to the Masters.

He is survived by his wife, Carolee Carter Smith; his children and their spouses, Jennifer (Joseph) Smith Compagni of Highlands, NJ, and Mark (Linda Kamisato) Smith of Florham Park, NJ; and his granddaughter Gabriela Compagni, also of Highlands, NJ; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law Donald and Karen Carter of Concord, NH; nieces, nephews, and several cousins.

Friends and family paid their respects during calling hours on Friday, Feb. 13, 2015 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home, 11 Algonkin St., Ticonderoga. An Elks ritual service was held in his memory that evening. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 at St. Mary's Catholic Church of Ticonderoga. The Rev. Kevin D. McEwan, Pastor, officiated. The Rite of Committal will take place in the Spring at the family plot of the Mt. Hope Cemetery of Ticonderoga.

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