



Gifford Decker Smith

February 4, 2026

Gifford Decker Smith

Gifford Decker Smith of Brodhead, Wisconsin and formerly of Marinette, Wisconsin, devoted husband, loving father, and dedicated attorney, passed away February 4, 2026 at the age of 79.

Born in September 1946 in Lynn, Massachusetts, Gifford dedicated his life to serving others as an attorney, a volunteer in his community, and a loving father and husband.

Raised in the Los Angeles, CA area, Gifford was a 1968 graduate of Carlton College and member of its award-winning collegiate cross-country team, and a graduate of University of Michigan Law School. He practiced law in Michigan for many years, first as the prosecuting attorney of Schoolcraft County, then in private practice in Marquette, MI and then Menominee, Michigan. He served on the Holy Family school board, taught CCD for Holy Family parish, volunteered at school sporting events, was a member of the Marinette Knights of Columbus and a firm supporter of Marinette youth wrestling.

Gifford considered his greatest achievement to be his family. He was a beloved husband to his wife, Jane, whose partnership and love were the

foundation of his life. Together they strove to protect fairness and equal access to justice, and built a home filled with laughter, warmth, and steadfast support.

He was deeply devoted to and proud of his children. Whether attending school and sporting events, offering guidance during life's challenges, or simply sharing quiet moments, Gifford took immense pride in his role as a father. His children remember him as a source of wisdom, strength, humor, and unconditional love. Gifford believed strongly in fairness, second chances, and standing up for those who needed a voice. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he impacted through his work and personal relationships.

Gifford is survived by his wife, Jane Krueger Smith; his children, Kimberly (Matt) Auge, Rachel (Chris) Smith-Kozlowski, Kevin (Megan) Smith, and Katherine (Nolan) Bursch; his grandchildren; Darian, Jacob, & Paige Auge, Elizabeth Smith, Amelia & Ruth Kozlowski, Charlotte & Marnie Smith, and Eleanor Bursch; his brother Elliot (Lauren) Smith, and chosen family, Miriam Lyons. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Ruth Smith, parents-in-law Frank and Mary Krueger, and beloved daughters Julia and Kristin Smith.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, with visitation starting at 10 am at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Brodhead, followed by a funeral mass at 11:30 am and luncheon to follow at the Kelch Aviation Museum in Brodhead.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to American Civil Liberties Union or the FIELDS of Green Co. Homeless Shelter, reflecting his lifelong commitment to the law and a better future for the generations to come. He will be remembered for his sharp mind, steadfast character, and above all, his profound love for his family. His absence leaves a deep void, but his

legacy will endure in the lives he shaped and the principles he championed.

The DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead assisted the family. 608-897-2484

www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 28. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
1005 West 2nd Avenue
Brodhead, WI 53520

Celebration of Life

MAR 28. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
1005 West 2nd Avenue
Brodhead, WI 53520