



## Teresa L. Smoot

June 7, 1976 - February 8, 2024

Teresa L. Smoot, 47, of Springfield, formerly of East Peoria, passed away on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria. She was born in Peoria on June 7, 1976, to William and Lynn (Spicher) Heisel. She married Sean Michael Smoot on July 31, 2004.

She is survived by her parents, William and Lynn Heisel of Morton; her former husband and their son, Colter Smoot of Springfield; her stepdaughter, Emily Smoot of Springfield; sister, Laura (Sam) Walters of Morton; brother, Bill (Wendy) Heisel of Germantown Hills; 5 nieces and nephews, Josh, Miriam and David Walters and Alex and Andy Heisel; 2 adoring grand nieces, Emma and Charli who she spoiled with great joy; and her beloved Goldendoodle, Ramsey.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

Teresa graduated from EPCHS Class of 1994, then earned a bachelor's degree in political science from University of Illinois Springfield. An accomplished labor relations professional, she influenced many people in more ways than she could have ever realized. She began her career as a 911 Dispatcher, then worked representing Illinois' Finest as a Labor Representative for the Police Benevolent Labor Committee. She worked for several years as an HR Specialist at the SIU School of Medicine. Most recently, she worked as the Director of Labor Relations for the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs. She also served as a teacher and substitute teacher at Our Savior's Lutheran School and Lutheran High School over the

years.

Teresa impacted the lives of many children over the course of her life, as a teacher, coach, mentor and sometimes even surrogate mom. She loved to travel and played many sports, especially softball. She was a very proud (and often frustrated) Chicago Bears fan.

A private Memorial Service will be held at the First United Methodist Church of East Peoria. Additional services will be held in Springfield on Saturday, February 17, 2024. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Springfield, with a Memorial Service beginning at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Aaron Hauser will officiate. A luncheon and time for sharing will follow the service in the church fellowship hall. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria is assisting the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Operation TT – to provide K-9 support to first responders that experience traumatic incidents - c/o PBPA of Illinois – [www.pbpa.org](http://www.pbpa.org) or to First United Methodist Church of East Peoria. Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

FEB 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2645 Old Jacksonville Rd  
Springfield, IL 62704

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Teresa L. Smoot



**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - February 16, 2024 at 01:22 PM

TF

“ The Fisher Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Teresa L. Smoot.



**The Fisher Family** - February 16, 2024 at 08:05 AM

LR

“ Laquata, Sahvanna, Oleta, & Randy purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Teresa L. Smoot.



**Laquata, Sahvanna, Oleta, & Randy** - February 15, 2024 at 01:29 PM

GP

“ Greg and Teresa Phillips purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Teresa L. Smoot.



Greg and Teresa Phillips - February 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM

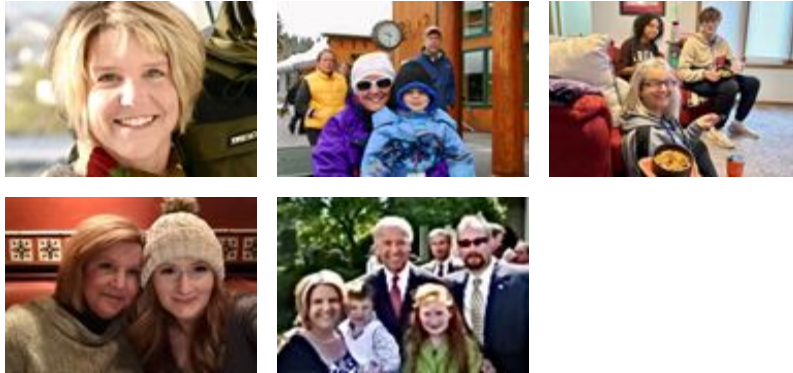
GP

“ Greg and Teresa Phillips planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Teresa L. Smoot.

Greg and Teresa Phillips - February 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM



“ 35 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 14, 2024 at 04:55 PM

JT

“ TT, as we loved to call her! Was one of the best friends anyone could ever ask for! She did nothing half way, she fought for what was right across the board! She was an amazing parent and always had me in tears laughing non stop. She was the best road trip friend anyone could ever ask for! God gained a true angel with T! Until we meet again sis, I love you to the moon!



Jenny Thornley - February 13, 2024 at 10:24 PM

SU

“ Lynn, I just saw you a few months ago and we mused over how our paths have crossed again, via Teresa. I haven't known Teresa long, but I saw her heart and I heard her love for you. I am so sorry for your loss. As you may have heard. I just lost my step-daughter in December 2023. My heart hurts for you .

suzanne - February 13, 2024 at 06:19 PM

HB

“ Teresa and I worked on a political campaign together in high school. We worked the phones, interviewed voters, and gave a class report over everything we learned. We played sports together since Jr high, softball being most memorable. We took French together. She loved to laugh, and clown around. We lost touch after high school, but I can still hear her laugh and picture her smile. My heart goes out to her children and family. Gone way too soon. Be thou at peace my friend.

Hallie Burdin - February 12, 2024 at 09:35 PM

CL

*Knew Teresa as a lifeguard at the old Fondulac pool. She was my labor rep at District 150 when I was union president, she loved cops and negotiating contracts. A true loss for all.*

**Chris Lavin** - February 13, 2024 at 07:38 AM

VH

*Beautiful sweet Teresa was my neighbor girl when she was growing up until she moved away.*

*My heart breaks for her family at this difficult time. May your memories heal your heartache. RIP Teresa. 💕🙏*

**Virginia Hajny** - February 13, 2024 at 09:41 AM

VS

*I can't tell you how sorry I am for your family. You couldn't meet Teresa without loving her. Our hearts are shattered She was such a big part of our lives. We have kept in touch over the years which I am grateful for. When it came to politics we were all the same side She had her opinion for sure. I remember one year staying up half the night waiting for presidential results she made the night so much fun. Teresa will be in my ❤️ heart*

**vicki Snider** - February 13, 2024 at 01:32 PM