

Martin “Marty” James Smith

October 19, 1959 – September 24, 2025

Martin “Marty” James Smith passed away peacefully on September 24, after a courageous fight with cancer. He spent his final two weeks at home surrounded by his loved ones, grandchildren, and many dear friends. Born on October 19, 1959, Marty lived a life defined by service, loyalty, and love.

At the age of 17, Marty joined the United States Air Force as a member of the Special Police. Following basic training and technical school, he was stationed at Ramstein, Germany, where he proudly served for three and a half years. In 1987, he began his career in law enforcement with the Denver Sheriff’s Department. Four years later, in 1991, he joined the Denver Police Department, where he faithfully served the City of Denver until his retirement in 2023.

Marty’s career with the Denver Police Department spanned more than three decades. He began in District 2 as a patrol officer in northeast Denver and, in 1996, was assigned to the Gang Unit, where he served for eight years. Promoted to detective in 2004, he went on to serve in District 3 Property Crimes, the Major Crimes Unit in Sex Assaults, and later in Cold Case. In 2013, he was assigned to Homicide before returning to Cold Case in 2021, where he worked until his retirement. Throughout his distinguished career, Marty was admired for his strength, dedication, tenacity, and compassion, bringing justice and closure to countless families.

He is survived by his life partner, Kandace Anders; his daughter, Kelsey (Kris) Thomsen; his daughter, Kaitlyn (Ginger) Hamrick; his grandchildren, Nathan, Madilyn and William “Liam” Martin; and his sister, Kellie (Don) Scherrer. He also lovingly embraced Kandace’s daughters, Erin and Megan, as part of his family. Marty shared many meaningful years with Sharon Smith, the mother of his children, who also survives him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orvetta and James Smith, and his sister, Stacey Floyd.

Marty will be remembered not only for his years of service but also for his strength, kindness, humor, and devotion to his family. His proudest role was being a father, Pop Pop, partner, and brother.

A celebration of Marty’s life will be held on Tuesday, October 7 at 1:30 p.m. at Horan & McConaty in Lakewood, Colorado. Following the service, a memorial will take place at Fort Logan National Cemetery beginning promptly at 3:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly welcomes donations to St. Jude’s in Marty’s honor.

Marty leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and devotion. He will be deeply missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.