



Steven Smart

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Scott Steven Smart- known to most as Steve, and to others as Stevie – who left us on March 25, 2025, at the age of 70, from complications following a stroke.

Born in Bakersfield, California, on April 12, 1954, to Scott and Shirley Smart, Steve moved with the family to Anaheim in 1955. Steve graduated from Anaheim High

School in 1972. He later went on to earn a business degree from Cal State Fullerton and spent 38 years carving out a successful career in real estate and investments.

Steve married Sherri Dean in 2000. Together, they made homes in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, and eventually Arroyo Grande, where they retired to enjoy a slow, quieter lifestyle. He is survived by his wife, Sherri Smart; his two stepdaughters, Jessica Dean Swagerty (Ryan), and Madison Dean (Chris); his sisters Cheryl Smart Pebley (Steve), and Patti Smart Kelly; nephews Brandon Kelly and Kevin Pebley, nieces Shannon Kelly Acevedo (Mike), and Katie Pebley Polzer (Heath); three grandsons (Dean, Rocky, and Lincoln, who affectionately called him “Opa”), six great nieces and nephews, several cousins – plus countless friends who still can’t believe he’s gone and probably owe him at least one drink.

Birth: 1954

Death: 2025

Steve loved sushi, driving fast, inappropriate jokes, spicy food, taco joints that most likely failed health inspections, herbal remedies, and tequila that burned a little going down. His huge one-acre backyard was his oasis, his dog Annie was his sidekick, and his favorite expression, "It is what it is," summed up his approach to life: embrace the chaos, control your controllables, and enjoy the ride.

Steve was a true original. With a big laugh, an even bigger heart, and a personality that could light up any room (or bar, or backyard), he made life interesting for everyone lucky enough to know him. He was equal parts mischief-maker and loyal friend. Steve was known to break into spontaneous (and oddly accurate) elephant impersonations just to make the kids laugh – and usually succeeded in cracking up the adults too. He worked hard, played harder, and loved deeply. He was, without a doubt, a real character – and we wouldn't have had it any other way.

But beyond the jokes and the big personality, Steve was a giver. He'd do anything for anyone – no questions asked, no hesitation. His loyalty ran deep, and his word was solid gold. Many of his closest friendships dated back to childhood – a rare and special bond that he cherished for life.

His family will miss him more than words can say. But his spirit lives on in the stories we tell, the laughter he gave us, and the memories we carry every single day. He'll be with us always – around the table, in the backyard, and anytime we hear an elephant sound for no good reason at all.

Memorial donations may be made to Seal Beach Animal Care Center or to Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation: Acute Rehab Unit. Let's raise a glass in Steve's honor and remember: it is what it is.