

# JON BURNETT



Jon Burnett (Jonathan Haynes, Jr.), 71, died on February 20, 2025, after dealing with neurodegenerative disorders for many years. Jon was most proud of his dearly loved family: wife Debbie, children Samantha and Eric and their spouses Brett and Erinn, his grandchildren Eli, Caroline, Nathaniel, Shepherd, and Locke, his mother and father Nancy and Jon, Sr., brother David, sister Martha Rudder

and other extended family members. He was additionally proud of his 41-year award-winning television career, being an Eagle Scout, and playing football at Bearden High School and The University of Tennessee in his hometown of Knoxville. Most recently, he was proud of raising awareness about Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) and the National Sports Brain Bank (NSBB) at The University of Pittsburgh through stories which aired on KDKA-TV. The stories resulted in more than 100 new brain donation pledges to the NSBB.

Jon's family would like to thank the many family members and friends who support and love us. We also want to thank his caregivers, who have become our dear friends, and his doctors and Family House hospice team, who provided excellent and compassionate care.

Jon's memorial and celebration of life service is for all of his friends and family. The event will be live streamed and also recorded for later viewing for those who are unable to attend in person.

Professional services entrusted to **THOMAS M. SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD**; 930 Center Avenue Blawnox, PA, 15238; [www.thomasmsmithfuneralhome.com](http://www.thomasmsmithfuneralhome.com). On March 7, please visit Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home's webpage for Jon to access the live stream link.

Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

Roots of Faith Ministry in honor of Ernie Smith, 800 Main Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215

The National Sports Brain Bank at The University of Pittsburgh - online or by mail to Room S701, Scaife Hall, 3550 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Boy Scouts of America, Laurel Highlands Council, 1275 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)