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RSVP Now for the 2026 IIAMT InsurEXPO!

To be held May 4 - 6, 2026 at the Northern Hotel in Billings, Montana.

More details will be shared with you very soon!

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Get Your CE Credits - For Free!

Don't forget — IIAMT Agency members have **free access** to all The Institutes/CEU live and on-demand courses, including these valuable upcoming opportunities:



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The Privacy Paradox: Power and Peril of Client Data

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 9AM - 10AM

Unlock the power of client data while avoiding costly missteps. Discover smart strategies to protect privacy, reduce risk, and keep client confidence strong.

1 "General" CE Credit

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Algorithms and Accountability: Ethics in the Age of AI

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 11AM - 2PM

Discover how AI shapes ethics in insurance, from bias and consent to surveillance and transparency. Learn strategies to balance innovation with accountability in a rapidly evolving landscape.

3 "Ethics" CE Credits

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Autonomous Vehicles: Innovation, Liability and the Road Ahead

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 9AM - 10AM

Autonomous vehicles are redefining insurance. Explore shifting liability, evolving claims, and the unpredictable challenges when humans and machines share the road.

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Backyards and Beyond: What Today's Underwriters Really See

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 9AM - 10AM

What do trampolines, TikTok, and AI have in common? They're all shaping today's underwriting decisions—see how far technology and lifestyle data really go.

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Legal System Abuse: A Growing Threat to Claims and Coverage

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 11AM - 12PM

Legal system abuse is costing billions. Discover how insurers are responding, what red flags to watch for, and why this battle is reshaping the claims and underwriting landscape.

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Algorithms and Accountability: Ethics in the Age of AI

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 11AM - 2PM

Discover how AI shapes ethics in insurance, from bias and consent to surveillance and transparency. Learn strategies to balance innovation with accountability in a rapidly evolving landscape.

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Remembering Jim Smith



Today we are celebrating the life of a legend in the Montana insurance industry and a great friend and human.

Jim Smith served as the education consultant and an instructor for IIAMT and was a significant advocate for the Big I in Montana. He was a beloved partner at First West Insurance in Bozeman for over 20 years, retiring from the agency in December 1999. Widely recognized and cherished, he was a beloved figure within the insurance industry.

Last weekend, Jim Smith passed away peacefully after a battle with cancer. Originally from San Francisco, he pursued the priesthood before shifting paths, including attending Stanford, working in his family's insurance business, and serving as a Navy pilot. In the 1970s, he moved to Bozeman, Montana, where he became a partner at First West Insurance, contributing significantly to the industry over four decades through growth and awards. Jim was a lifelong learner who enjoyed the arts, outdoor activities, and cherished time with his blended family.

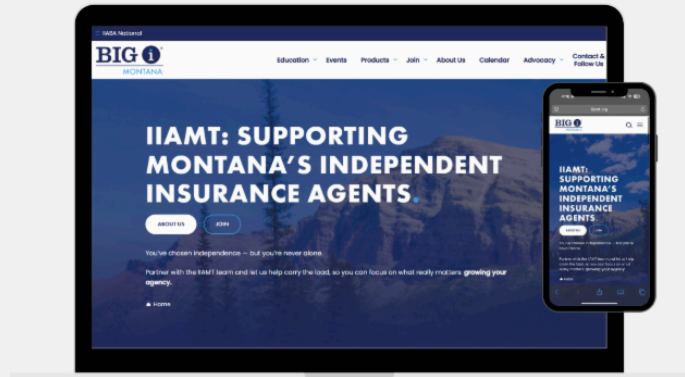
Read Jim's obituary or share a memory [here](#).

A celebration of life will be held on January 24th at 10 am at Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service. Interment with Military Honors will follow at Sunset Hills Cemetery.

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