



Mr. Donald Gene Smith

December 19, 1938 - July 14, 2017

Celebrating The Life of Donald Gene Smith:

Donald Gene Smith was born on December 19, 1938 in the farming community of Independence, Kansas to Jake Smith Sr. and Lesester Smith (Danzy). The Smiths settled to a family farm in Cassopolis, Michigan in 1940 where Don attended school, graduating from Cassopolis High School in 1957.

He left Cassopolis to attend Grand Rapids Junior College, eventually attending Michigan State University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting in 1961. Don was a passionate and lifelong patron of MSU—taking family, friends, colleagues to Spartan football games every year, enjoying MSU Dairy Store ice cream, or singing the MSU Shadows, the Michigan State alma mater song.

After his graduation, Don moved to Detroit in December of 1961 where he took a position with the State of Michigan and took the first step in his enduring commitment to civic duty and public service by becoming a Big Brother for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Through his membership in BBBS, he met his future wife, Hersheline Watters, and they married in July of 1964. Don was dedicated to providing opportunities and creating a happy, secure life for his wife and children, eventually doing the same for his goddaughter, Piper, who gave him the moniker, "Daddy Don," eventually also

used by his grandchildren.

Don became a Certified Public Accountant in 1972, hired by the firm Weintraub and Nessell and Associates. He was an exceptional accountant because of his attention to detail—in the numbers, but also in people's lives. This attention to detail led him to become Managing Partner in 1980, making Weintraub and Nessell to Weintraub, Nessell and Smith.

Despite having his share of power in his career, Don never left his community behind and served it through a variety of organizations. He served as President of the Detroit Renaissance Lions Club, a board trustee for the Penrickton Center for the Blind, PTA President for Victory Christian School as well as a host for exchange students from Nagoya, Japan. Mr. Smith, as he was respectfully known by friends and neighbors, passed away on July 14, 2017.

Previous Events

Family Hour

Friday, Jul. **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Word of Faith International Christian Center
20000 W. Nine Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075

Funeral Service

Friday, Jul. **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Word of Faith International Christian Center
20000 W. Nine Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Donald Gene Smith*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. When death strikes the pain can seem unbearable. May you find comfort in Jesus words, "I am the resurrection and the life."-John 11:25*

M. Tuffy - July 21, 2017 at 11:17 AM



“ *To the family of Donald Smith I extend my heartfelt sympathy. La Wanna Lofton-Coleman*

La Wanna Lofton-Coleman - July 20, 2017 at 08:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Gene Smith.*



July 20, 2017 at 09:24 AM



“ *Christine (Cookie) Gear lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Gene Smith*



Christine (Cookie) Gear - July 19, 2017 at 06:02 PM

ML

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort embrace you with peace and hope as we all look forward to the time when even death will be no more - Rev 21:4. You have my deepest sympathy.

Ms Laverne - July 17, 2017 at 07:24 AM

CG

*My heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. You .
From Cookie*

Christine (Cookie) Gear - July 19, 2017 at 06:07 PM