



Mr. James Harold Smith Sr.

September 10, 1942 - January 21, 2016

The Life And Legacy Of James Harold Smith Sr.:

James Harold Smith, Sr. was born September 10, 1942 in Winston Salem, North Carolina to the late James and Eron Smith. He was the fourth child of his five siblings. Often called “Redbone” in his native city, he was also well known as “Smitty” to his Detroit family and friends.

Smitty confessed his love for Christ by being baptized at an early age. He was a member of Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church located in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He remained a member until he moved to Detroit.

Smitty was a well-educated man. He graduated from Adkins High School in Winston Salem. He furthered his education earning a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Winston Salem State College. After graduating from Winston Salem State College, he was offered a position as a teacher for the Detroit Public Schools. During his tenure in Detroit, he earned a Master’s Degree in counseling, a Master’s Degree in Administration and an Education Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision. Smitty was one of a few selected participants who completed a two-year computer program instituted to create a new department called the Office of Instructional Technology. He also completed all the course requirements except for the dissertation towards his doctoral degree.

Smitty worked for the Detroit Public Schools system for 33 years. He taught at Keating Elementary for 4 years and at Stark Elementary for five years. It was at Stark where he began honing his leadership skills as the Curriculum Leader for another five years. He easily moved into the position of Assistant Principal at Cooper Elementary School where he also served as the Principal. He then moved to Bagley Elementary as Principal where he continued to work until his retirement in 1997.

In 1975, Smitty married the love of his life, Katie Council. From this blessed union, two children were born, Keisha Louise Smith and James Harold Smith, Jr. Smitty and Katie enjoyed 40 years of marriage.

Smitty appreciated life and all it had to offer. He was known to give fabulous New Year's Eve parties. He loved to play cards and shoot pool. He had a love for learning and displayed this throughout his life. He was an avid reader encompassing a wide range of subjects. You would often find him standing in front of the barbecue grill on the July 4th and Labor Day holidays. When he was not watching a football game or watching one of his favorite sports figures, Tiger Woods; he was watching old westerns.

He enjoyed traveling almost as much as he loved reading. As a result of his expertise and educational background, he found a way to pair the two by reading and researching every destination before arrival. He would then create an itinerary to enhance the vacation experience.

Listening to Lou Rawls was a favorite pastime he enjoyed. He attended Lou Rawls concerts and owned many of his albums. Out of all of his hobbies, spending time with his family was the most enjoyable. You could often find him talking with his niece, Lisa on the phone, cutting his daughter's grass, visiting his son and grandchildren in Houston, TX and stealing a quiet moment with his loving wife.

Cemetery Details

Acacia Park Cemetery

31300 Southfield Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Tribute Wall



“ *Best Principal in the 90's at Bagley Elementary. Mr Smith did not play...he walked around the playground with his paddle and belt-- and was very outspoken and direct. I remember Mr. Smith telling my mother "Discipline your children at home so when they get to school we can focus on educating them" Back in those days the parents believe in villages raising kids...it wasn't no parents coming to school cursing out instructors for keeping us inline. God Bless Mr. Smith and the Smith family.*

Karmelo Waire - June 24, 2024 at 03:43 PM



“ *Mr. James Harold Smith Sr.*

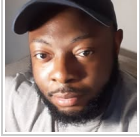
January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Katie, Keisha, & Harold,
My thoughts, prayers, and love are with you
today and always.
Love,
Kellee*



Kellee Jamerson - January 27, 2016 at 09:01 AM



“ *This cut deep when i found out the day you died. You, your brother willie, uncle Tommy and my father were my living understanding of what manhood or being a man is. I admired and respected you since i could remember. Im more bothered knowing that ill never hear your voice say "say young man!" When you answer my calls....i hurt because your gone but i smile knowing that you lived a life that is amazing....simply amazing your lectures to me will be something i will treasure and the lasting memory of me hugging you for the last time will forever play out in my mind much respect and much love unk thank you.*

Hissan Mock - January 26, 2016 at 06:42 PM

DJ

“ *Delores Johnson purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. James Harold Smith Sr..*



Delores Johnson - January 26, 2016 at 04:57 PM

BB

“ *Dear Katie and Keisha,*

Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. May you find peace and comfort in the warm and fond memories that you shared with your beloved husband and father, respectively.



Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Beverly J. Buchanan

Beverly Buchanan - January 26, 2016 at 02:45 PM

LJ

“ *Lois J. purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mr. James Harold Smith Sr..*



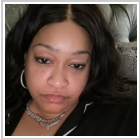
Lois J. - January 26, 2016 at 02:03 PM

DJ

“ *Delores J. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. James Harold Smith Sr..*



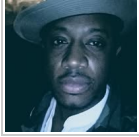
Delores J. - January 26, 2016 at 09:25 AM



“ *Mr Smith you were a great inspiration to us all to be all that we could bbe.I think that we can all agree that you were the best Bagley Elementary School has ever seen. We could not have had a better principal. You were not only our parent during the school day but you are also a friend and you cared about us tremendously as we cared about you. We love you. I know personally even past the Bagley years, I could still come to visit and it was like I never left. The same advice and the same love you gave before we graduated 6th grade you gave there after. I often wondered what happened to you leaving Bagley, and I asked about you over the years and I'm so sorry that we lost touch. Heaven has definitely gained another angel. Youre forever in our hearts. Rest peacefully in paradise. Forever in our hearts never forgotten.*

Alanna Allen & Family

Alanna Allen - January 26, 2016 at 08:08 AM



“ *Ricardo Morgan II lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Harold Smith Sr.*



Ricardo Morgan II - January 26, 2016 at 07:17 AM



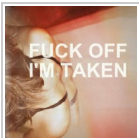
“ *Mr. Smith was my favorite 7th grade teacher at Stark Elementary School.*

Thank you Mrs. Smith for your guidance at Stark!!!

Condolences to the family!

Eren Stephens

Eren Stephens - January 25, 2016 at 10:20 AM



“ *Mr. Smith was the best principal ever!!! He took time to care for each student, whenever and however he could.... I spent many days in that office listening to his wisdom (and watching that cigarette hang :)).... He will truly be missed!!! #ProudBagleyStudent*

Kimiko Baddazz - January 25, 2016 at 08:22 AM

KS

“ Love you forever Daddy❤️❤️❤️🥰



Keisha Smith - January 23, 2016 at 03:15 PM