



## Mr. Oscar Smith

July 24, 1943 - August 12, 2024

### In Loving Memory Of

Oscar Boise Smith, made his grand entrance into this world on July 24, 1943. He was born to parents, Mattie and Harrison B. Smith. Oscar affectionately known as, “Big O,” “Oscar Boy,” “OB,” and “Smitty” was one of 11 children. At an early age, Oscar accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He “worked out his faith,” through loving service to others.

Oscar lived a very full life and was raised right here in Detroit, Michigan. Some of his fondest memories were of him and his siblings growing up on Holbrook and Owen Street. He always joked about having to sleep in the same bed with all his brothers. Oscar attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Central High School in 1962. He loved to play and watch sports. Oscar enjoyed basketball, boxing, track, skating, and swimming. He was a ping pong pro and a pool table master. Oscar loved to sing and could carry anybody’s tune. In his youth, he was part of a singing group and had hoped to be like one of the Temptations.

In 1965, Oscar was drafted by the United States Army, and he served his country faithfully. During this time, he traveled all over the world but was particularly fond of his time spent in France. Oscar talked often about the fun he and his older brother Rawlin had while serving in Germany. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he returned home. At the age of 25, Oscar purchased a 3-bedroom home where he lived, until his passing. At that time, it was unheard of for a single man to purchase such a large home, but

Oscar was a big dreamer!

In 1968, Oscar married Glenna Mackie and to this union 4 children were raised to love the Lord Jesus Christ and work to the glory of God, even on the job. In 1985, he joined New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church (NMZ). Oscar loved his church family and faithfully served on several ministries including the Trustee Board, Men's Ministry, Food Ministry, and Music Ministry. He could be seen at NMZ singing with the Mighty Men of Praise, ending most songs by hitting notes that shocked and amazed everyone! His signature song was, "Hallelujah, Anyhow," a statement that he lived out, until the very end of his life.

Oscar loved to work! His first job was as an entrepreneur at the age of 7, when he was given a little, red Ryder Wagon. Everyone else saw a wagon but Oscar saw an OPPORTUNITY. To earn money, he began taking groceries home for people in the neighborhood. Oscar held multiple part-time jobs at one time, simply because he liked to work. He was employed by Henry Ford Hospital, the City of Detroit (Recreation Department and Sanitation Department) and Detroit Public Schools. Oscar worked for all these employers, while holding a full-time job at Chrysler. He received several accolades from Chrysler and retired after 44 years of loyal service. Oscar continued his entrepreneurial mindset after retirement, by starting his very own jitney service. He had a special place in his heart for the people and staff at Food Farm Market.

Oscar was not one to sit still and his family could barely keep up with him! He had a variety of hobbies, including being an avid gardener. Oscar had one of the most beautiful lawns on the block where he lived, it was always neatly trimmed and full of radiant flowers. Yet, his yard is known for its yearly display of the "Elephant Ear" plant. This enormous plant has always been a showstopper! Oscar also loved riding his moped, driving fancy cars, spending time with loved ones, and putting a smile on everyone's face by sharing a joke, a quick one-liner, or a wise saying.

Oscar Boise Smith leaves to forever cherish his memory, four devoted

children: Donald, Donna, Stacie, and Jacqueline. Eight wonderful grandchildren: Brittany, Latrice, Lauren, Karl Lance, Bianca, Joshua, Amanda, and Donald Jr. Five amazing siblings: Carlton (Brenda), Marilyn, Marvin (Deborah), Leslie (Kathleen), and Lesa. Oscar was adored and will be forever missed by a host of other family members including a countless list of friends.

# Previous Events

## Family Hour

Friday, Aug. **16.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
2201 Elmhurst  
Detroit, MI 48206

## Celebration of Life

Friday, Aug. **16.** 12:00 PM (ET)

New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
2201 Elmhurst  
Detroit, MI 48206

## Burial

Monday, Aug. **19.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Rd.  
Holly, MI 48442

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ Jackie, Stacie, Donna and Donald - Wish we were there to squeeze you tight. Our hearts are heavy and our tears overflowing with the loss of your Dad. For this time last year, we tarried the same path. May the Lord give you strength and peace that surpasses our understanding as you know such deep loses feel never ending. Cherish the memories!

*Thank God for your Dad! Rest in peace Super Dad!*

*With Love from your old neighbors and friends, The daughters of the late Mary & Joseph Durant*

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**Joanne Durant-Waites** - August 19, 2024 at 11:27 AM

ML

“ I am heartbroken to hear of your father’s passing. Mr. Smith has been our neighbor for over 50 years. Sending my condolences and prayer to Donna, Stacy, Jackie, Donald and all of your family.

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**Mary Durant Lyles** - August 19, 2024 at 10:31 AM

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“ The McQueen/Williams Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Oscar Smith.



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**The McQueen/Williams Family** - August 15, 2024 at 06:51 AM



“ *The McQueen/Williams Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Oscar Smith.*

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**The McQueen/Williams Family** - August 15, 2024 at 06:51 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Oscar Smith.*



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August 13, 2024 at 04:57 PM