

+A HOME GOING CELEBRATION FOR+



SUNRISE
MARCH 25, 1956

SUNSET
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Julius Smith Jr.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

VISITATION: 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
FUNERAL SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK
6801 SHERIFF ROAD, LANDOVER, MD 20785
DR. HENRY P. DAVIS III, PASTOR

Obituary

Julius Smith, Jr., fondly known as “Smitty” by his family, “Juice” by college friends, “Dad” to his children, and “PaPa” to his granddaughters, embarked on his eternal rest on November 7, 2023, in Laurel, MD. Born on March 25, 1956, in Washington, DC, he was the cherished son of the late Julius Smith, Sr. and Dorothy Smith.

Julius’s early education took place in the Prince George’s County public schools, culminating in his graduation from Bladensburg High School in 1974. He furthered his education at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, earning his degree in 1978, and was a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. His spiritual life was nurtured at Mt. Carmel Baptist church in Washington, DC, where he was baptized, and a devoted Sunday School attendee.

He entered into a loving marriage with Gail Steward on August 2, 1986, and their union was blessed with two children, Sherelle and Julius (Trey). Julius was a pillar in his family, actively engaging in his children’s lives, from attending PTA meetings to supporting their dance and sports events. He was the quintessential family man who not only embraced the role of supportive parent but also became a familiar face in the community as the neighborhood chauffeur, reliably taking Trey and other local children to their practices and games.

Julius’s zest for life was infectious. He loved sports, music, and family gatherings where he would reminisce and discuss sports. Once a drummer in a band, he continued to play for the sheer joy of his family, especially his granddaughters. A die-hard Washington Commanders’ fan, he was also a stats enthusiast for football, basketball, and baseball.

One of his greatest joys was witnessing his daughter’s wedding and being there for the births of each of his three granddaughters, who were the lights of his life. Julius embraced his role as a granddad wholeheartedly, attending dance recitals for Jada and Zoë, and growing a vegetable garden with his granddaughter, Harper. His home and yard were a testament to his handiness and care; he was the go-to fixer-upper, ensuring everything was in perfect order for his family’s happiness.

In the heart of his familial devotion was a cherished principle: a happy life is anchored in a happy wife. Julius embodied this belief, demonstrating his love for Gail with unwavering dedication. Never missing a single occasion in 37 years, he showered her with flowers on Valentine’s Day, their wedding anniversary, and her birthday. Their mutual affection was a testament to their deep bond. Together, they epitomized a partnership of love and friendship; they were inseparable, sharing every aspect of life with joyful togetherness. When one was present, the other was never far behind. This unity of heart and purpose was a hallmark of their marriage and an endearing sight to all who knew them.

Professionally, Julius dedicated 40 years to the Bureau of the Census as a statistician and retired as the Assistant Division Chief of Manufacturing, Mining, and Construction in March 2019. His work was as much about the friendships he made as it was about the data he analyzed.

Julius was preceded in death by his parents, Julius and Dorothy Smith, Sr., and by his brother, Robert “Bob” Smith, Sr. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 37 years, Gail Smith, as well as his children Sherelle (Michael) Duncan and Julius “Trey” Smith, III; granddaughters, Jada Smith, Zoë Smith and Harper Duncan; sister, Gloria Smith; father-in-law, Charles Steward; sisters-in-law, Sharon Timbers, Adrienne (Keith) Greene, Charlene Steward, Torhea Timbers; brothers-in-law, Kevin Steward, Sheldon (Tamela) Steward, Rendall Steward; nieces/nephews, Kevin (Patricia) Smith, Kenieth (Richard) Winfrey, Robert Smith, Jr., Branden Steward, Jessika Steward, Nysha and Nyla Steward, Kuren Anderson-Steward, Sheldon Steward, Jr. and Ava Steward; great-nieces/nephews, Kourtney and Kendall Clark, Jayla and Delonte, Amyrah Steward; and a host of families and friends.

Order of Celebration

Officiating:

Rev. Dr. Renee Alston

First Baptist Church of Highland Park

Organ Prelude

Scripture Readings

Old Testament -- Psalm 23: 1-6

New Testament -- John 14: 1-6

Leslie Munnelyn

Ashley Munnelyn

Prayer of Comfort

Pastor Kevin L. Smith

Family Church Village

Musical Selection

Valerie Dawkins

Acknowledgements

Ministry

Reflections (*2 minutes*)

Chris Rodman

Edward Watkins

Kenieth Winfrey

Obituary (*read silently*)

Musical Selection

Valerie Dawkins

Gospel Message

Pastor Kevin L. Smith

Benediction

Pastor Kevin L. Smith

Recessional





Pallbearers

Julius Smith, III
Robert Smith, Jr.
Branden Steward
Michael Duncan, Jr.
Ryan Cook

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

*We wish to express our deepest gratitude for the comfort, love, and support each of you have provided during this difficult time. Your presence, kind words, and thoughtful gestures have been a source of strength and solace for our family. As we bid farewell to a cherished life, your compassion has helped us to honor and remember Julius in a beautiful way. Thank you for being part of our journey of remembrance and for helping us keep his memory alive in our hearts.
May God bless each of you for showing the love of God towards us.*

-The Smith Family

Interment

Harmony Memorial Park
7101 Sheriff Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20785

Services entrusted to

J.B. Jenkins Funeral Home
7474 Landover Road, Landover, MD 20785

Repast

James R. Cousins, Jr., Municipal Center
8600 Glenarden Parkway, Glendarden, Maryland 20706

Prepared by: The Family