

## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Bruce Spruill  
Hakim Spruill  
Devone Brown  
Tyrone Codes  
Jimmy Chavis, Jr.  
Jahbari Codes

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Robert Codes  
Fred Codes  
Samuel Codes  
Terry Codes  
Douglas Codes  
Leon Codes, Jr.

## FLORAL BEARERS

Ushers

## INTERMENT

Anderson Baptist Church Cemetery

## EXPRESSIONS of GRATITUDE

The family of **Rosa Lee "Tot" Codes Smith** gratefully acknowledges the many expressions of love, prayers, support, and kindness shown to us during this time of transition. Your calls, visits, messages, cards, and acts of service have strengthened and comforted us more than words can express. We are deeply thankful for the outpouring of compassion extended to our family as we celebrate a life so beautifully lived. May God richly bless each of you for the love you have shown.

## COMPASSIONATE SERVICES ENTRUSTED :



*Gethers*  
FUNERAL HOME

200 Grace Street | Moncks Corner, South Carolina  
221 Church Road | St. Stephen, South Carolina  
Telephone: 843.761.8519 or 843.567.4046  
"Rooted In Excellence and Integrity"  
www.gethersfuneralhome.com

## CELEBRATING THE

# Life of



# ROSA LEE

"TOT"

# Codes Smith

JULY 17, 1946 – FEBRUARY 7, 2026

Monday, February 16, 2026 | 11:00 A.M.

ANDERSON BAPTIST CHURCH

1159 Old Black Oak Road | Moncks Corner, SC

*Reverend Oscar Cash Jr., Pastor*

# THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE OF

## Rosa Lee “Tot” Codes Smith

On July 17, 1946, in MacBeth, South Carolina, a beautiful baby girl was born to Geneva Gibbs Codes and Leon Codes, Sr. Named after her aunt, Rosa Lee, “Tot” Codes was a spirited, curious child who considered her grandmother Elizabeth’s house her own “special place” away from home and responsibilities. Through the years Tot grew into a brave, tenacious, passionate, and somewhat stubborn, young woman.

Raised in the church, Tot was a member of Anderson Baptist Church from childhood, where she served on the Junior Usher Board and as a delegate to the Baptist Association. Excellence and strength were embedded in her DNA. She was educated in the Berkeley County School System, and when she began elementary school, her teachers quickly recognized her intelligence—having already been taught to read and count by her father. In 1964, Tot graduated valedictorian of Berkeley Training High School. As beautiful as she was smart, she was crowned Miss Berkeley that same year.

Tot understood the importance of education and desired to attend South Carolina State College to become a teacher. When college was not financially feasible at the time, she chose another path that opened new opportunities. In 1964, she moved to New York and began working as a live-in babysitter. Her commitment to learning remained strong, and she continued her education by enrolling at Nassau Community College.

In 1965, she met a young taxicab driver named Norman Smith, when he picked her up for an appointment at a photography studio. Tot later described her first impression of her future husband writing: “He was a steady person, who wore solid, sensible shoes.” Tot and Norman married on April 15, 1967, at Faith Baptist Church in Hempstead, New York. They welcomed their first child, Courtenay, in 1969 and a few years later in 1973, their second child, Brian, was born. They were married for 35 years.

Tot was a devoted active member of Faith Baptist Church and served faithfully in leadership roles including Church Anniversary Chairperson, Registrar for Bible School, and Women’s Day Chairperson and in many other positions for more than 40 years. When she returned to South Carolina in 2003, she reengaged with Anderson Baptist Church, where she faithfully served as a choir member, Sunday School teacher, and member of the hospitality team for over 20 years.

Being hired by the New York Telephone Company marked what Tot called her “first big career break.” Initially employed as an operator, she quickly distinguished herself and rose through the ranks into management during her more than 25 years with the company. She loved her work and her colleagues and was a strong advocate for those who served under her leadership. Tot retired from Verizon at the age of 56 in 2003.

Her favorite pastimes included reading and spending time with her family, especially her granddaughters, Jordan and Chandler. She enjoyed traveling by air, land, and sea and visited destinations abroad including London, Germany, Greece, and Paris, as well as Mexico, several Caribbean countries, and countless states and cities throughout the United States.

# THE ORDER *of* SERVICE

*Reverend Oscar Cash, Jr., Officiating*

## PROCESSIONAL

Clergy & Family

## OPENING HYMN

*“It is Well”*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament

Minister Estelle Codes

New Testament

Reverend Albert Jones

## PRAYER

Reverend Cornell Johnson

## MUSICAL SELECTION

## READING OF THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Cassandra Codes-Benjamin, *Niece*

## REMARKS

Brian Smith, *Son*

Samuel Codes, *Brother*

Norman Smith, *Former Husband*

Henry Dingle, *Class of 1964*

Deacon Edward Rivers

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Doneisha Codes, *Niece*

## MUSICAL SELECTION

## WORDS OF COMFORT

Reverend Oscar Cash, Jr.

## MUSICAL SELECTION

## RECESSIONAL

## COMMITTAL

At the Graveside

## BENEDICTION

# FOREVER LOVED.



Tot was deeply compassionate and always willing to help those in need, including family, friends, and even strangers. Later in life, she returned to her passion for education and advocacy by enrolling at Trident Technical College to become a paralegal, working to protect the rights of families whose heirs' property was being threatened.

Hers was a life well lived. She has been described as classy, well-dressed, a strong supporter, a lover of family, fiercely loyal, a steadfast believer—Tot was all those things and so much more.

As much as we all loved Tot, God loved her even more. Her Heavenly Father beckoned her home on February 7, 2026, to be joyfully reunited with her parents; her brother, Otis; and her sisters, Ida Spruill and Denise Diggs and so many other cherished family members and friends.

Her legacy lives on through her children Courtenay Smith Brown (Kenneth) and Brian Marc Smith (Sabrina) and through her grandchildren Jordan Keturah Brown, Chandler Monique Brown, and Nino Hasaan Brown.

Tot is lovingly survived by her siblings: Anna Jamison, Samuel Codes (Barbara), Freddie Codes (Marcy), Mary Chavis, Terry Codes (Annette), Robert Codes, Leon Codes Jr. (Carolyn), Shirley Ann Codes, and Clayton "Douglas" Codes and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Written in her own words, Tot's prayer for our family in the days to come is that "We all stay connected and available to help each other.

DO NOT STAND AT MY  
GRAVE AND *WEEP*  
(Sent from her granddaughter, Chandler)

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you wake in the morning hush,  
I am the swift, uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight.  
I am the soft starlight at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there, I do not sleep.

-Mary Elizabeth Fry



