Celebrating the Homegoing
of
Mr. Earnest Lavon "Big Smitty" Smith



Alpha
May 1, 1970

Omega
March 16, 2025

Saturday, March 22, 2025
11:00 a.m.

St. Peter M.B. Church
248 Hawpond Church Road, Magee, Mississippi 39111

Reverend Troy L. Durr, Sr., Officiant

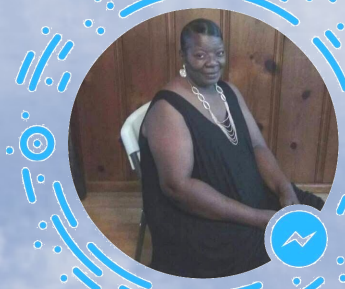
Tribute to Big Smitty

No words I write could ever say
How sad and empty I feel today.
The angels came for you much sooner
than I planned.
I'll brave the bitter grief that comes
and I'll try my best to understand.
Big Smitty, why did you have to go away?
Why wasn't it right for you to stay?
In my heart you'll always be;
I love you dearly and I know
you'll watch over me.
What I'm suffering seems so unfair
But one thing is for certain –
my love for you will always be.
Big Smitty, my son, you always will be a part
of my heart.
I'll cherish the moments I held you
in my arms
And, I'm sure that if you had stayed longer
You would have graced me
with your charms.
A thousand words won't bring you back
I know because I've tried.
Neither will a thousand tears
I know because I've cried.
Now you're up in Heaven
with the angels up above
They will give you all their love.
So, go and rest in peace my little boy so dear
For all my love and memories,
I will forever hold.

Love, Mom











Brothers and Sisters are Forever

Brothers and Sisters share a special bond like blood, brotherhood and sisterhood is thicker than water. Friends come and go and relationships may drift apart But brothers and sisters are forever. Though the sun may rise in the east, and set in the west, we will still be brothers and sisters. Though the seasons may change, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, we will still be brothers and sisters. What God has ordained no man can change.

Brothers and sisters are forever.

Love—Virgil, Andrew, Glenda, Perlean and Mary



The Obituary



Earnest L. Smith was born May 1, 1970, to Wiley and Verlean Smith. He departed this life on March 16, 2025.

He attended Mendenhall High School. He was baptized at an early age and accepted Christ. He joined the St. Peter M.B. Church where he was a member of the Gospel and Male Choirs. He was employed at Mylex International until they closed. After Mylex's closure, he stayed home to take care of his mother. He didn't have children but he was a father to his nieces and nephews, who loved and honored him.

Earnest is preceded in death by his father and two older brothers.

He leaves to cherish his memory: a loving mother, Verlean Smith; two brothers, Virgil Smith of Magee, Mississippi, and Andrew Smith of D'Lo, Mississippi; three sisters, Glenda Glass, Perlean (Charles) Norwood and Mary (Burkecele) Barron, all of Magee, Mississippi; three aunts, Mary Loftin and Sylvia Hobbs, both of Mendenhall, Mississippi, and Roxy Weathersby of Prentiss, Mississippi; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The Order of Service

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." Psalm 46:1-2

Processional ..... *Clergy and Family*

Mistress of Ceremonies ..... *Sister Keyatta Hobbs Moses*

Song ..... *"Leak in This Old Building"* ..... *St. Peter Choir*

Scripture Reading

Old Testament ..... *Pastor James Dampeer*
Mt. Carmel M.B. Church, Prentiss, Mississippi

New Testament ..... *Pastor Aaron Williams*
Taylor Hill M.B. Church, Braxton, Mississippi

Prayer ..... *Reverend Jeffery Magee*

Song ..... *Brother O.D. Tillman*

Reflections (Two Minutes Please)

As a Neighbor ..... *Sister Frances Hobbs*
As a Friend ..... *Sister Winnie Buckley*

Song ..... *Sister Keyatta Hobbs Moses*

Words of Encouragement ..... *Pastor Willie B. Hobbs, Jr.*
Nazareth M.B. Church, Mendenhall, Mississippi

Obituary ..... *Read Silently*

Acknowledgments ..... *Sister Keyatta Hobbs Moses*

Song ..... *St. Peter Choir*

Eulogy ..... *Reverend Troy L. Durr, Sr.*

Recessional ..... *Funeral Directors of J&M in Charge*

Still Waiting

By Ken Van

I said, see you tomorrow
Well, I'm still waiting for tomorrow to come.
Death is an endless problem
There is no sum.

Your days have ended
Mine still continue to go
Never again to you I will say hello.

I didn't even get to say goodbye.
You told me you were gonna die.
I thought it was a joke, a little game.
I now realize nothing will ever be the same.

Guess what?
I'm still waiting for tomorrow…

Love—Your Nephews and Great Nephews

Tribute to Our Hero

I came into this life, you held me in your arms;
You kept me safe, so no one could harm
You taught me valuable lessons in life I would learn
You taught me to respect, I gave you love in return.

You have always been in my life through thick and thin
And now my lonely journey without you will begin.
For you were my hero forever and a day
You will always remain that hero 'til I meet you again someday.

I will embrace you in my arms and hold on tight
I will stand by your side and you will never leave my sight.
I miss you so much, the pain does not ease
I pray you are happy and finally at peace.

We love you Uncle Smitty
Your Nieces and Great Nieces

Forever in Our Hearts

Gone Too Soon

Words cannot describe the loss I feel
Saying farewell to you,
But heaven chose to give you wings
And now it's time you flew.
I wish that we could have more time,
That God had let you stay.
Forever would not be long enough
But I would take one day.
I wish I had just one more chance
To see that tender smile,
To laugh with you again my dear
Just for a little while.
Gone too soon, but not forgotten,
Forever you will remain,
My guiding light, my shining star,
Until I see your face again.

Love – Jennifer & Aaron






Ole Miss
Ole Miss
Ole Miss




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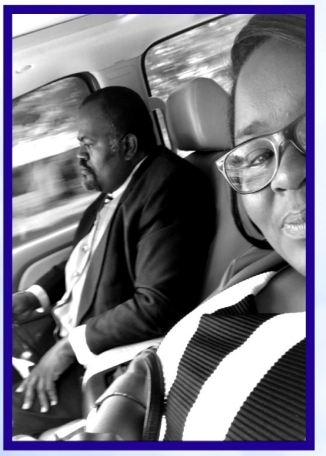

JESUS

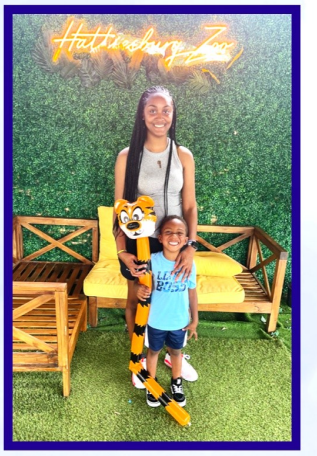













Saturday
10:54 AM



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me
in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff
they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Think of Me

Think of me and know I am with you.
Think of me and smile.
Think of me an know that our parting is only for a while.

On the days you feel so desperate,
To see my smiling face.
Just believe in your heart I am with you,
And that I'm in a beautiful place.

So think of me and remember,
All the memories in your heart,
And believe and know that this is true,
Then we are never really apart.



Earnest Lavon Smith

"Big Smitty"

May 1, 1970—March 16, 2025

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank you for your prayers, hospital visits and any other expression of love shown toward us during the illness and passing of our loved one. A very special thank you to the staff of St. Dominic Hospital, our family, and our many friends. Thank you for your heartfelt compassion. May God continue to richly bless your lives.

The Smith/Hobbs Family

Honorary Pallbearers

LaDarrylreous Smith
Virgil Smith
Aaron Smith
Timothy Smith
Benrus Womack
Marcus Glass
Burkecele Barron
Pierre Barnett
Andrew Smith, Sr.
Andrew Smith, Jr.
Devan Smith
Terriyakai Feazell
Jason Smith

Active Pallbearers

Donnell Hobbs
Curtis Hobbs
Shaquille Harris
Earnest Hobbs
Malcom Womack
Charles Norwood
Jarious Newsome

Flower Bearers

Cousins

Interment

St. Peter Cemetery

Repast

St Peter Fellowship Hall

Services Entrusted to

J & M Funeral Home, LLC
732 Dixie Avenue • P.O. Box 475
Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114
(601)847-2911 • www.jandmfuneralhome.com
"Your Trust, Sacredly Kept"

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