

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch
If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Active Pallbearers

Pastor Charles Perdue, Nephew
James Perdue, Nephew
Glenn Perdue, Jr, Nephew
Andre Gregory, Nephew
Dr. Enoch Gray, Nephew
Patrick Flythe, Son-in-Law
Sean Wooten, Son-in-Law
Pascal Olivier Ouandji, Son-in-Law

Honorary Pallbearers

Ronnie Smallwood
Jerry Crawford
Anthony Smallwood
Jeryl Smallwood, Jr
Paul Smallwood
Jerelle Crawford

Acknowledgement

The family of **Harry James Smallwood** wishes to thank everyone for all expressions of sympathy, kindness and love shown during our time of bereavement. Whether you sent flowers, a card, prepared a warm meal, visited, or kept us in your prayers, our hearts were touched and we appreciate your immense display of love.



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

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2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
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COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

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MANSFIELD, OH 44903
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CINCINNATI CHAPEL
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CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

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A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Harry James SMALLWOOD

"Blessed and Highly Favored"

November 28, 1946 — December 12, 2025

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept the faith."*

2 Timothy 4:7 NIV

Monday, December 22, 2025
Visitation 10:00am | Service 11:00am

Higher Ground
Always Abounding Assemblies
870 St Clair Ave, Columbus, OH 43201



Obituary

Harry James Smallwood was born on November 28, 1946, in Bellaire, OH, to the late Thomas Smallwood and the late Marguerite “Motdear” L. (Cole) Smallwood Culbreath. Grandma Mary Jane Brantley helped raise Harry and his siblings.

On Friday morning of December 12, 2025, Harry went home to be with the Lord. Harry was preceded in death by six brothers and one sister - Ronnie Smallwood, Jeryl Smallwood Sr., Charles Crayton, Pastor Mary Alice Gregory, Pastor Glenn Perdue Sr., Lennie Smallwood, Frederick “Sonny” Perdue, brother-in-law John Gregory, and sister-in-law Georgianna “Sissy” Smallwood.

After attending Bellaire High School and graduating from Big Red High School in 1964, Harry enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He completed his training at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Following his Honorable Discharge, he returned to Steubenville, OH, and met his wife, Debra, in 1970. To improve his community, he served as the first president of The Progressive Blacks, a community outreach organization. Harry and Debra married in 1972 and moved to Columbus, OH. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Master of Arts in Accounting from Franklin University (Summa Cum Laude), as well as his Master of Arts degree from Central Michigan University. With over 25 years of service, he retired from the State of Ohio. Desiring financial independence, Harry was a real estate agent with Harris Realty and created his own business, Tax Xpress. He became an Infinite Banking Professional, a life insurance agent, an Enrolled Agent, and a Chartered Financial Consultant. Harry was passionate about financial freedom and impacting his community.

Married for 53 years, Harry dearly loved his wife. They loved traveling, dining, and even completing several Columbus Marathons together. They partnered with God to raise their three, beautiful daughters. Harry was blessed with five grandchildren. He enjoyed spending time with them - teaching, laughing, playing, and talking. In addition to his wife, children, and grandchildren, he loved serving all of his family, generously offering his time, wisdom, and resources.

Harry loved the Lord. One of his favorite scriptures was Genesis 6:3, “yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.” He found encouragement and joy by worshipping and praising God, singing along with his gospel favorites, especially from the Mississippi Mass Choir. Harry’s life serves as a testimony of God’s unfailing love. Harry was passionate about the Lord, his family, his work, and enjoying life. He enjoyed serving in the Higher Ground food pantry for several years. Harry cheered on the Cleveland Browns and The Ohio State Buckeyes, through good times and bad.

He is survived by his wife Debra (Gray) of Gahanna, OH, daughters Shehara (Sean) Wooten of Dayton, OH, Shawna (Patrick) Flythe of Gahanna, OH, Angelica (Pascal) Ouandji of Ottawa, Canada, sisters Linda Smallwood of Atlanta, GA and Paula Smallwood of Columbus, OH, sisters-in-law Mary Perdue of Altadena, CA and Maxine Perdue of Steubenville, OH, and a host of beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Order Of Service

Parting View

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

Psalms 23 - Timothy Flythe, Grandson

New Testament

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Pastor Charles Perdue, Nephew

Prayer

Clergy

Selection

“I Won’t Complain” Priscilla Woodson

Acknowledgement/Condolences

Elder Deborah Williams

Remarks

Angelica Ouandji, Shawna Flythe

Paula Smallwood, Linda Smallwood

Reading of Obituary

Andre Gregory, Nephew

Selection

“When the Battle is Over” Priscilla Woodson

The Eulogy

Elder Jeff Watts

Benediction

Clergy

Recessional

Clergy, Family, and Friends

“Thank You” - Walter Hawkins