

*Celebrating The Life and Legacy of*



*Danny Stevon Smith*

Sunrise: October 9, 1963 – Sunset: March 25, 2021

**Saturday, April 10, 2021**

3:30 P.M. Service

**James H. Cole Home for Funerals, Inc.**

2624 West Grand Blvd. ● Detroit, Michigan 48208

*Danny Stevon Smith* was born on October 9, 1963, in Detroit, Michigan to the union of the late Grady and Frances L. Smith. He accepted Jesus at a young age and was baptized at Gospel Temple Baptist Church, in Detroit, Michigan.

Danny was educated in the Detroit Public Schools, graduating from Cass Technical High School in 1981, with a diploma in Automotive Technology. He may have left Cass Tech in '81 but CT never left him. He remained connected to CT and other alumni till his last days. He was further educated at Henry Ford Community College, earning an Associate Degree in Automotive Technology.

Danny met and married Elona Wilson and together had two children, Dominic Nicole Wilson and Dezi Stevon Smith. While they lived separate lives, they successfully and were lovingly committed partners to their family. Danny was a full time and present Dad. He shared a unique and special relationship with and was very proud of Dominic and Dezi. He advised and supported them as they were making their place in this world. He was affectionately known as "GranDanny" to Mia and soon Ivy Mae (once she can talk); and as "GranPa" to Demi. His Granddaughters had his full heart. They each shared special time and moments with him. One of his most recent joys was meeting and holding Ivy Mae, also known as "Squeak", for the first (and only) time.

He took his "Uncle Danny" role seriously, as he counseled, laughed with and was doted on by his many nieces and nephews, whether they were biological or not. He shared with them and passed on many of his great loves to them: love of bikes, cars, music, photography and enjoying time with family and friends.

Next to Danny's love for his family was his passion for all things Cars and Bikes, good music and time with friends. His knowledge of bikes, cars and other collectibles was unmatched. As a little boy, Danny would take things apart and put them back together again. As an adult, he did the same thing with both cars and bikes. Both professionally and personally, Danny surrounded himself with cars. When he wasn't in the field working for AAA Michigan, one might find him in his "Shop" building bikes or in his "office" building models of his favorite cars before they graduated to the "purple room". He also enjoyed being under the hood of cars. Participation and attendance at Car Shows, with his brother, Carl and his Brother-Friends was a regular pastime. He was the "go-to" for questions about cars and bikes and had an appreciation for the rare, hot and vintage version of both. Around 2014, he founded "40 North Riderz", a bike club with members from throughout metro Detroit and one of the first "slow roll" bike clubs in the area. Most of the "Riderz" were over 40 during its inception, but later it was not unusual to see a younger rider join them, like his nephew Carl 2. He supported the Cass Tech Bicycle Club and had relationships with the owners and staff at local bike shops.

While his first jobs were working alongside his father in his Floor Cleaning business, Smith and Sons, Inc. and at the Dairy Royal Ice Cream place, he naturally ended up working professionally, around cars. He started out at the General Motors Technical Center and ultimately, began his career at AAA Michigan on February 12, 1987. He retired nearly 30 years later, as a Claims Adjuster. Danny was well liked by those he worked with in the office, and those he interacted with throughout the community. True to Danny's character, these cherished relationships extended beyond the job.

Danny never met a stranger and he valued and cultivated his friendships over the years. He remained connected to childhood friends from Kendall and Doris Streets, from high school and those he added along the way. Danny lived a full life, touching many with his big personality and amazing “crooked” smile. He enjoyed meet ups with friends at local spots with great music, like Bakers or passing time at the Detroit Festivals with his sister, Glauiel and other friends. He lived life on his own terms and brought his best to it. He was a positive presence for many.

On Thursday, March 25, 2021, Danny peacefully made his transition from labor to reward. He leaves to cherish his precious memories Elona Smith, his two children: Dominic Nicole Wilson and Dezi Stevon Smith; three grandchildren: Mia Nicole Spears, Demi Rose Smith and Ivy Mae Pryor; three sisters: Lynette Knight, Glauiel Smith Crawford (Joe) and Sonji Lynn Revis (John) and two brothers: Reginald Smith and Carl Jay Smith (Robbi); three Aunties: Gladys Robinson, Sara Lee Thomas and Tewilla “Tina” Smith; many many nephews, nieces, and cousins; God-Sisters, Pamela Wilbert, Lisa Jackson Hardman and Alexis Riggins. Danny had friends too numerous to name and some he considered true Brothers and Sisters.

While many of us feel Danny was called Home too soon. We trust God’s perfect timing and await the day we see him again. We will miss him dearly and celebrate with gratitude his remarkable life.

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Musical Selection

Processional

Scripture

Prayer

Poem..... Kevin Mays

Acknowledgements and Condolences... Glauiel Smith Crawford

Obituary.... Carl Jay Smith

Remarks

Song... Floyd Humphrey, Carmen Jackson and Randall Poindexer

Eulogy..... Dr. John K. Revis

Recessional

Musical Postlude

“...I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26



GranDanny,

Trying to find the words to express my feelings for you is far from easy. I keep asking myself things like “who will pull Ivy and MJ in the Radio Flyer this summer?” or “what do I do when I see a nice car? Who do I send the picture to?”. I find I don’t have the answers readily available... I’m so happy you got your wish. I know how important it was for you to see all your grandchildren, together in one room. We had that moment in February, and I can honestly say, it was simply the best. We laughed and ate, got trampled by The Wild Kingdom. I wish you didn’t have to go so soon. I hate that there isn’t more time, that our journey stopped here. While I’m hurting, I am grateful for the time we shared in this life and excited for our time in the next. I miss you already. I know Mia misses you too. Ivy Mae hadn’t gotten the chance to know you as Mia did, but I know she’ll miss you even more for that exact reason. It’s nice knowing we have another angel to look after us. We love you! Kachow! ~Midget, Mia & Mae



My Father, my Dad, My Pops, My Bestfriend, My Brother. It’s extremely difficult to sum up such an extraordinary presence in just a paragraph. I’m not sure where I would be today without you. You mean so much to me. You showed me how to be a man. A real man. How to survive, showed me the importance of family & respect. Laid down the blueprint of life. I can’t thank you enough. You are more than just my father. A role model to all my friends. I’ve always felt I



was special having you in my life. You made a strong impact on so many. Till we meet again Pop. I Love you! ~Dezi “Baba”

### THE BROKEN CHAIN



We didn’t know that morning, God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly, in death, we do the same.  
It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.  
You left us beautiful memories; your Love is still our guide.  
And although we cannot see you, you are always at our side.  
Our Sibling chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again. ~Love, your Siblings

~Adapted from Author: Ron Tranmer



Dan... or “Tang” as Mama called you. You were “Hippie” and “Harrison” to Daddy. You are supposed to be here. Our years together have been cut short, too short. I’ll miss you always. Rest peacefully” little brother. ~Love, Reggie



I am stuck between reality and what my heart won’t let me accept. Danny, my brother, you gave me lots to remember, to laugh about, to be grateful for and to Love. I pray for the day when I can smile, even though my tears, when I think about how blessed we are to have you as a brother, the many stories we shared and all you mean to me, now and always. Until we meet again. Rest in Power! Rest in Peace! ~Love, Sonji Lynn



*"Farewell my friend. It was beautiful as long as it lasted the journey of my life". Not only my younger brother, but my very good friend. I'll miss our conversations and our support of each other. You made the good times better and so much fun. My go to when I sometimes needed a plus one, you were always ready. I'll surely miss that!! I could write a book. It's so unbelievable that you're gone. I'm so very glad I told you I loved you the last time we spoke, never thinking it would be the last time. You'll always be in my heart forever until we're together again. Love you! Big Sis, Glauiel*

*Danny, you gave no one a last farewell, nor ever said good-bye. You were gone before I knew it, and only God knows why. A million times I will miss you. A million times I will cry. If love alone could have saved you, you never would have left. In life, I loved you dearly. In death I love you still. In my heart you hold a place, no one else will ever fill. It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone, for part of me went with you, the day God took you home. I know we will meet again someday. I know you're in a better place. I thank God, He made you my little brother while you were here on earth. So, take your rest little Brother until we meet again. ~Love Cricket "Zara"*



*One of the hardest days of my life will be saying a final goodbye, not an "I'll talk to you tomorrow" or "I'll be there in an hour" or "be ready at 8am tomorrow". The final goodbye... how do you say that to someone who has touched your life throughout your life? How do you say goodbye to your brother? You don't... you just say, "I'll see you again". ~Love, Carl Jay*

*Uncle Danny, from buying knives to showing up for graduations, you supported me my whole life in any way that you could. I'm finally at an age where I can reflect and appreciate everything that you did for me and for that, I thank you. While we won't have the opportunity to make any more memories together in my adult life, I find comfort knowing you'll be watching over me along with grandma and grandad. I love you and will forever miss you Unc. ~Love, Zach (Cameron)*



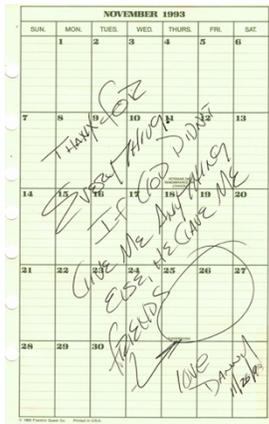
*My Uncle Danny was the best father, grandfather and the world's NUMBER ONE UNCLE. I miss that you won't be here to update the nickname you gave me, as I get older. I miss you so much already! ~Love Kendalyn "KG9.75"*



*Uncle Danny, I will miss you. I will miss our bike rides. I will miss our car shows. I will miss our times together, but I will see you again. Rest in Peace! ~Love, Carl 2*







Reginald G. Smith  
 Joe Crawford  
 Kevin Mays  
 Tony Ganaway

**Honorary Pallbearers**

Carl Jay Smith  
 Dr. John K. Revis  
 Phillip C. Holley  
 Terry Schuh

Cameron Z. Smith  
 Floyd Humphrey  
 Harold Milner

**Flower Bearers**

Kendall and Doris Street Kidz and the 40 North Riderz

**Arrangements Entrusted To**

James H. Cole Home for Funerals, Inc.  
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<https://www.jameshcole.com>

**Acknowledgement of Appreciation**

The family of Danny Smith wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers and many other expressions of kindness. A more personal acknowledgement will be made at a later date.



*Danny, the creation of this final tribute, a synopsis of your story, was a labor of Love... from my heart to yours. Rest in Power! ~Always, your little Sister, Sonji Lynn*