

Reflections of His Life

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted"
- Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2

Mr. Willie Grooms Smith who was affectionately known as "Tootie" by his grandchildren was born on November 7, 1957, in Columbia, South Carolina. He was the beloved son of the late Rosa Bell Smith and the late Joseph (Bertha) Grooms, Sr. God called home His servant, Willie (Tootie) Grooms Smith on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Lexington Medical Center Hospital, in Lexington, South Carolina. During his formative years, Willie was educated in the public schools of Richland County, South Carolina. He later attended Midlands Technical College. Willie lived a life defined by his strength, perseverance and unwavering love for his family. He was a dedicated man who took pride in caring for those he loved and always stepped up when it mattered most. Willie was employed for many years at Ridgeway Chevron, North American Van Lines, Columbia Metropolitan Airport, and he dedicated many years of his life in the auto mechanic industry, a craft he knew well and carried with pride. He was always willing to lend a helping hand and never hesitated when someone needed him.

Willie will be remembered for his strength, character, and the quiet way he showed love to those around him. He found joy in life's simple moments, especially the time he spent with family. He was also a devoted fan of the "Clemson Tigers" and took great pride in cheering on his team. Whether watching a game or talking about football, it was something he truly enjoyed. As "Tootie," he shared a special and loving bond with his grandchildren, and other loved ones.

Willie was preceded in death by his sister, Ms. Betty Jean Grooms.

Mr. Willie Grooms Smith leaves to cherish his precious memories his loving wife; of 46 years, Mrs. Linda Kelly Smith; daughter, Wendelyn (Byron) Boatwright, Hopkins, South Carolina; son, Willie D.(Epiphany) Smith, Anderson, South Carolina; brothers, Roosevelt Smith of Tallahassee, Florida, Clarence Sims of Hopkins, South Carolina, Robert (Kimberly) Grooms of Williamsburg, Virginia, and Gene Grooms of Columbia, South Carolina; sisters, Ojetta Grooms, Wilhelmina Grooms and Jessie Grooms, all of Columbia, South Carolina; four grandchildren, Brianna Boatwright, Marley Smith, Harmoni Smith, and Harlyn Smith; his beloved grand dog, Bentley Boatwright; his devoted goddaughter (niece) Jennifer McCullough; sisters-in-law; Gracie (James) Josey, Edith (James) Dove, Thelma Kelly; brothers-in law, Rudolph (Lorena) Kelly, Henry Kelly, Jr.; a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives and caring friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

Order of Service

REVEREND JAMES F. JOHNSON JR., OFFICIATING

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

THE HYMN OF PRAISE
"Oh I Want to See Him"
Shiloh AME Church Choir

THE INVOCATION
Reverend Leroy Pearson

OLD TESTAMENT
Bishop James Mack
Psalms 23

NEW TESTAMENT
Reverend Ruth E. D. Robinson
2 Corinthians 5:1-5

SOLO
Clarence Sims (Brother)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Sister Avis Brice

SONG
"On The Other Shore"
Sister Thelma Kelly (Sister-In-law)

(RECORDING BY SLIM AND THE MIRACLES)

REFLECTIONS (PLEASE LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)

Reverend James F. Johnson Jr. (Friend)
Brother Ronald Thompson (Friend)

Sisters Jennifer Grooms McCullough & Audrey Grooms Lewis (Nieces)

SOLO
Brother Stephon Hopkins

WORDS OF COMFORT
Reverend Steven Dowling
Pastor, Shiloh AME Church

RECESSIONAL/ FINAL FAREWELL
Funeral Directors
The Medley of Music

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

COMMITTAL, PRAYER, BENEDICTION

INTERMENT
Shiloh AME Church Cemetery
Eastover, South Carolina

Floral Bearers
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Pallbearers
FAMILY AND FRIENDS



When I Come
TO THE END OF MY JOURNEY
WHEN I COME TO THE END OF MY JOURNEY,
AND TRAVELED MY LAST MILE.
FORGET THAT I EVER FROWND. JUST
REMEMBER MY INFECTIOUS SMILE.
FORGET ALL THE UNKIND WORDS THAT I
HAVE SPOKEN. REMEMBER ALL THE GOOD I
SPOKE ONTO YOU.
FORGET THAT I EVER HAD HEARTACHE.
BUT REMEMBER THAT I HAD FUN.
FORGET THAT I WAS SICK. AND REMEMBER THAT
I AM AT PEACE IN MY NEW HOME.

Expression of Gratitude

THE FAMILY OF WILLIE GROOM SMITH WISHES TO EXPRESS THEIR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR ALL ACTS OF KINDNESS SHOWN DURING THIS TIME. YOUR CALLS, VISITS, PRAYERS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND STRENGTH. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS EACH OF YOU.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE
COLUMBIA NE. CHAPEL 5010 FARRROW RD COLUMBIA, SC 29203 803-764-0888
COLUMBIA SE. CHAPEL 8132 GARNERS FERRY RD COLUMBIA, SC 29209 803-625-1666
ST. MATTHEWS CHAPEL 102 CHURCH STREET ST. MATTHEWS, SC 29135 803-374-3317
BISHOPVILLE CHAPEL 14 E. CHURCH STREET BISHOPVILLE, SC 29010 803-484-7245
Jonathan D. Holley
PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR
WWW.JPHOLLEY.COM

In Loving Memory of



Willie "Tootie"
GROOMS SMITH

NOVEMBER 7, 1957 - MARCH 31, 2026
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
12:00 P.M.

SHILOH AME CHURCH
3381 MCCORDS FERRY ROAD, EASTOVER, SC 29044
REVEREND JAMES F. JOHNSON, JR., OFFICIATING
REVEREND STEVEN DOWLING, EULOGIST