



Mr. Richard Lee Smith

May 20, 1942 - September 17, 2014

SMITH, Mr. Richard Lee - age 72, passed away Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at his residence. Family hour 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 26, 2014 at Saints of God Church, 528 W Pierson Rd. with memorial service commencing at 11 a.m. Rev. Alfred L. Harris, Sr. officiating. Family and friends will assemble at the church 10:30 a.m. Friday. There will be no public viewing.

Richard Lee Smith was born May 20, 1942 in Priscilla, MS and raised in Greenville, MS. He was the first of six children born to Rev. Walter Lee Smith Jr. and Lee Ethel Smith. After his first wife's death, Rev. Smith married Gennette McDowell and to this union was born two daughters and one son. Richard was baptized at Kindling Altar Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, MS by his father. He graduated from Coleman High School in Greenville, MS and attended Mississippi Valley State University. Richard moved to Saginaw, MI with his wife Bobbie Jean Smith and their first born son Troy in 1965. In 1970 Richard began a long and successful career with the Buena Vista Police Department starting as a Patrolman and retiring as Chief of Police. In 1971 Richard and Bobbie were blessed with their second child Tyrone. After his retirement in 2004 Richard moved to Burton, MI and married Catherine Johnson-Smith. Richard loved the Almighty God. He was a Bible Student and Teacher and at one time served as Superintendent of Sunday School at New Fellowship Church of God in Christ of Saginaw, MI. Motorcycling was one of his passions and he was one of the founders of

Hustlers M/C. He also delighted in the outdoors, boating, fishing, and golfing. He loved people and had many lifelong friends. Richard loved life and could often be found in his most favored place...surrounded by family and friends.

Cherishing his wonderful memories are: 2 sons, Troy Darnell (Rhonda) Smith of Richmond, VA, and Tyrone Donyell Smith of Phoenix, AZ; grandson, Marcellus (Jessica) Smith of San Antonio, TX; great-granddaughter, Olivia Smith; 5 sisters, Bettye (Wilbert) Aikens, Evelyn Smith, E. Renee Smith Hayes, all of California, O. Bonita Smith, Gennette Tameka Smith (Matthew) Kimber, both of Pascagoula, MS; brother, Fudge Cedric Smith of Jackson, MS; 2 aunts, Mrs. Vernice Lenard and Mrs. Gloria Smith Washington, both of Greenville, MS; 3 sisters-in-law, Samuel M. Gray, Ernestine (Jesse) Brown, both of Flint and Toni Robinson Smith of Georgia; brother-in-law, Chester Hardy Jr. of Flint; a host of special cousins and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Also remembering with love, are special friends, Robert Gray, Sandy (Florence) Hall, Leroy Henderson, Robert Mack and play sister, Fannie (Joenathan) Barfield and significant other, Vivian Barnes. From previous marriages Richard created an extended and blended family which includes 5 step-daughters, Ariana A. (Juan) Valenzuela, Belinda Johnson, Danielle, Kim, and Lisa; 2 step-sons, Derrick Johnson and Stacey Johnson; 7 step-grandchildren, Rodolfo Barron IV, Alicia C. and Ana M. Valenzuela, Tiffanie C. Johnson, Christopher and Taylor Ryan, and Vincent Cokley.

Richard was preceded in death by his loving wife, Cathy Smith; parents, Rev. Walter Lee and Ethel Smith, Jr; step-mother, Gennette Smith; brothers, Walter J. Smith and Rev. W. James Smith; nephew, Christopher Shawn Brown,

The family would like to extend special thanks to Dr. R. Peddireddy, Dr. M. Amlani, Helping Hands staff, the Buena Vista Township Police Department, Rev. Alfred L. Harris Sr. and members of Saints of God Church.

Previous Events

Family hour

SEP **26**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Saints of God Church
2200 Forest Hill Avenue
Flint, MI

Service

SEP **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saints of God Church
2200 Forest Hill Avenue
Flint, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Richard Lee Smith*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *To Tyrone and the rest of Detective Richard Smith's family: The Tafel Family from Buena Vista Township would like to send our deepest sympathy in this time of your loss. Richard was a great, caring and loving man in the Buena Vista Township. Tyrone, take pride in knowing that your Dad and Kay's Dad John are in Heaven sitting together discussing what the two of you are suppose to be doing. They are proud of us. Richard was a wonderful asset to the Buena Vista Police Department and Community he will be missed and was missed when he retired.*
Carol and Kay Tafel

Kay Tafel - September 28, 2014 at 10:37 PM



“ *To the entire family of Richard Smith's: What a blessing it is to know the Lord is your strength at this time and always; to know you don't have to depend on yourselves at this moment. God will give you the comfort needed to see you through this difficult time and beyond. We pray that soon your tears of sadness will be replaced with smiles and laughter of pleasant memories shared with such a great man. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*
The McMillon Family.

Clariee and Dortha McMillon - September 26, 2014 at 01:03 PM

PJ

“ *Purvis Carter Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Lee Smith*



Purvis Carter Jr. - September 26, 2014 at 12:21 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard Lee Smith.*



September 25, 2014 at 05:22 PM

GL

“ *To the Smith family On behalf of my family and I we would like the family to know that you are in our prayers at this very sad time in your family,we knew Richard very well he was a good friend and he will be missed.*



May God be with you doing the time of this loss and may he give you comfort in this time of need.

Gary&Allene loster and family

gary loster - September 24, 2014 at 04:27 PM

ML

“ *Our Prayers and condolences for the loss of your father. May god grant you comfort in your time of need.*
Marvin and Deborah Logan



Marvin Logan - September 24, 2014 at 03:00 PM

TC

“ *Tracy L. Cormier lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Lee Smith*



Tracy L. Cormier - September 24, 2014 at 08:32 AM

YE

“ *One of the best policemen in BV township, sorry for your loss Troy and family.*

Yvonne Herrera Ellis - September 23, 2014 at 06:24 PM

BP

“ *Barbara Payton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Lee Smith*



Barbara Payton - September 23, 2014 at 05:24 PM

RS

“ To the Smith family I would like to send all my love and prayers. I didn't know Mr. Smith personally but I do know his two sons Troy and Tyrone. I pray that the white light of the holy spirit cover them with the love and protection of Jesus Christ. I also pray for the soul of Mr. Smith and may he rest in peace.

Reginald M Scott

Reginald M Scott - September 23, 2014 at 03:08 PM

SM

“ Please accept my condolences for the loss of Mr. Smith. At times like these we can turn to our heavenly father Jehovah God (Psalms 83:18) for the comfort and strength needed to get through the days to come. At 2 Corinthians 1:3&4 it says he is the "Father of tender mercies and God of all comfort who comforts us in all our trials". The bible also says that Jehovah will bring an end to suffering and death in the near future and this is found at Isaiah 25:8, "he will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe the tears from all faces".

I hope these words will comfort you and you can find more comforting thoughts at JW.ORG.

Selina

S. Merriwether - September 19, 2014 at 03:00 PM