



Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.

April 9, 1945 - May 24, 2026

***NOTE: A SERVICE IN LOVING MEMORY FOR MR. CURTIS B. SMITH, SR. WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026, AT THE GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH. THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH WILL OPEN AT 10:00 A.M. FOR VISITATION.

***PLEASE SEE VISITATION & SERVICE TIMES AND LOCATIONS BELOW

***NOTE: MASKS AND HAND SANITIZER CAN BE PROVIDED BY REQUEST.

***ATTENTION TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO VIEW SERVICES ONLINE YOU HAVE (4) OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1. Go to Galilee Baptist Church's website at: gbckazoo.org
 - Or
 2. Go to YouTube and type in The Galilee Baptist Church Lives Stream
 - Or
 3. Go to Facebook, if you have a Facebook account. after logging in, type in Galilee Baptist Church
 - Or-
 4. Use the GBC App, Instagram or Twitter
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***NOTE: THE DVD MEMORIAL TRIBUTE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON

The Obituary

Curtis B. Smith, affectionately known as “Brother,” passed away on Thursday, May 21, 2026. He was born on April 9, 1945, in Money, Mississippi, to the late James Arthur Smith and Hellon Trussell Smith.

Curtis moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1968, where he built a life centered around family, hard work, and community.

Curtis dedicated many years of service to Parker Hannifin. Never one to sit still, he embraced his entrepreneurial spirit following retirement by pursuing his passions and creating businesses that reflected his personality and talents.

Curtis founded The Rookie Man, a business inspired by his passion for barbecuing. He became known for his delicious barbecue sauce and signature seasoning, which were enjoyed by many. His cooking brought people together and created lasting memories around the table.

In addition to his barbecue business, Curtis also owned and operated International Best Clothing Store.

Curtis was preceded in death by his beloved parents, James Arthur Smith and Hellon Trussell Smith; his wife, Mary Faye Smith; his son, Curtis B. Smith Jr.; sisters, Jerlene Redmond and Ruby Stuckey; brother, General McArthur Smith; nephew, Otha Smith Jr.; great-niece, Taigan Bradford; and great-nephews, Marsavious Frazier and Anthony Tyrese Stuckey.

Those remaining to cherish his memory include his wife, Delois Smith of Bastrop, Louisiana; his daughter, Kyra Smith of Kalamazoo, Michigan; his

son, Sammie Ray of Mississippi; five grandchildren, Nia Faye Smith of Michigan, Niko Bridges, Natane Smith, Curtis B. Smith III, and Morrissette Smith of Texas; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Curtis cherished the special bond he shared with his three bonus daughters: Belinda James of Indiana, Christine (Reginald) Pippins of Georgia, and Gerri Berry of North Carolina.

He is also survived by his loving siblings: Otha (Coretta) Smith of South Holland, Illinois; Betty Frazier, Pallene Bradford, and Joyce Smith of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Percy (Cindy) Smith of Portage, Michigan; and Sally (Al) Smith Adams of Moore, Oklahoma.

He is also survived by his special friend, Doris Hoskins, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Curtis will be remembered for his outspoken nature, charming personality, entrepreneurial spirit, and deep love for his family and friends. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched, the memories he created, and the life experiences he shared with those around him.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-1733
(269) 337-8227

Previous Events

Public Viewing For Family & Friends

JUN 2. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Visitation For Family & Friends

JUN 3. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

A Service in Loving Memory

JUN 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.



Harper Funeral Home - June 01 at 08:47 PM

TW

he was a wonderful person who I met when I was working for his daughter

TAMIKA PAULETTE WILKINS - June 02 at 10:53 PM

BJ

Im going to miss you so much. RIP my ❤️

Belinda James - June 04 at 03:20 PM

JG

“ Our condolences to the family of Mr Curtis B Smith Sr



JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr - Atlanta GA - June 06 at 10:26 PM

ML

“ *Malinda Ligon-Whitley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Malinda Ligon-Whitley - June 02 at 09:38 PM

TW

“ *Terri Lynn Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Terri Lynn Walker - June 02 at 09:05 PM

MC

“ *To my loving Smith family,our love and hearts are with you during this time. Continue in the strong bond of love of family and God.*

Curtis, I'm going to miss the phone conversation we shared. I love you my dear cousin.

*Ann Billups- Belton
Mashan Minor-Cooper*

Mashan Cooper - June 02 at 10:51 AM

RS

“ Rita Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.



Rita Snell - June 01 at 10:53 PM

KB

“ You'll be missed Uncle Curtis.. Uncle Curtis was always trying to feed you when you would go over. He kept cases of soda (that he wasn't suppose to have) and water like there was going to be a drought or something. lol.. Rest well..
Your niece Kizzy



kizzy Bradford - June 01 at 05:13 PM

IR

“ IDA ROBINSON lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.



IDA ROBINSON - June 01 at 03:17 PM

BR

“ Brenda sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.



Brenda - May 31 at 05:43 PM

DF

“ *May God Bless and Keep Family- Daniel Family - Lillie, Patricia and Teresa*



Daniel Family - May 30 at 06:33 PM

SB

“ *Sandra Brown*

Sandra Brown - May 30 at 11:18 AM

CS

“ *Cynthia Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Cynthia Smith - May 29 at 12:21 PM



“ *I helped out with his daughter and he would always say Mrs Vincent i appreciate you very much. I would help him as well. I will definitely miss you very much. I'm glad I was able to know you. Rest in peace*

Monifa Vincent - May 29 at 10:45 AM

GW

“ *MY FOREVER FRIEND..*



Georgia Williams - May 29 at 09:31 AM

RW

“ *Rufus WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Rufus WILLIAMS - May 29 at 09:29 AM

RC

“ *I knew Curtis from the 60's at Clarage Fan Co. and we would reunite for years at Parker Hannifin along with his siblings. We were so sorry to hear of his passing.*

Rod & Barb Church

Rod Church - May 28 at 07:08 PM

CS

“ *Cynthia Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Cynthia Smith - May 28 at 05:28 PM

DF

“ *My sincere condolences to the family praying*
🙏



Dallas Boards and family - May 28 at 03:03 PM

GW

“ *FOREVER MY FRIEND..*



Georgia Williams - May 28 at 12:56 PM

GW

“ *Georgia Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Georgia Williams - May 28 at 12:55 PM

HS

“ *Hilda Snell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Hilda Snell - May 28 at 10:58 AM

HS

“ *Hilda Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Curtis B. Smith Sr.*



Hilda Snell - May 28 at 10:58 AM

GW

“ *I WILL TRUELY MISS YOU MY FRIEND.. LOVE U ALWAYS,NO OTHER MAN LIKE MR. CURTIS SMITH...UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN..*



Georgia Williams - May 28 at 09:54 AM