

## Mr. David Smith

April 11, 1933 - January 9, 2021

\*\*\*ATTN: FRIENDS & FAMILY\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH IS HOSTING & DIRECTING PRIVATE SERVICES FOR THE FAMILY OF Mr. David Smith AT THE CHURCH TO BE HELD 11:00 a.m. SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021 (TODAY)

\*\*\*\*ATTENTION TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO VIEW SERVICES ONLINE YOU HAVE (3) OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1. Go to Mt. Zion Baptist Church's website at: [mtzionkalamazoo.org](http://mtzionkalamazoo.org)

-Or

2. Go to YouTube and type in [mtzionbaptistkalamazoo](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmtzionbaptistkalamazoo)

-Or

3. Go to Facebook, if you have a facebook account. after logging in, type in [Myzionbaptistkalamazoo](https://www.facebook.com/Myzionbaptistkalamazoo)

\*\*\*FOR THOSE THAT DO NOT USE THE INTERNET, YOU MAY LISTEN TO THE SERVICE ON YOUR PHONE BY CALLING: (269) 206-9635

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Scroll of Life for David Smith

An honorable, wise and faith-filled husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend are just a few words that describe Mr. David Smith.

Born on April 11, 1933 in St. Petersburg, Florida, David was the youngest son born to the union of the late Celestine Haws-Barnes and Robert Smith Sr. A quiet, conservative, and meek man, David loved spending time with his older brothers.

In search of better opportunities, David and his brother Robert moved with their mother from New York to Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1942. David attended Roosevelt elementary and middle schools, before graduating from Central High School in 1951. Raised on the importance of strong work ethic, David took two jobs after completion of high school, one at Miller Lumbar Company and another with the VA Hospital.

1952 proved to be a significant year in David's life as he married the love of his life, Jacqueline Johnson. To this union three children were born. That year, David was also hired at KVP Sutherland (now known as James River Company) in the Powerhouse. One of the first longstanding Black men within the company, David quickly gained seniority and respect for his kind, helpful and respectful personality.

With a leadership change in the early 70's, KVP became The Brown Company. As a result of these changes, after more than two decades of service, David decided it was time to develop his skills elsewhere. The Upjohn Company (now known as Pfizer) was a well-known pharmaceutical company with opportunities for growth both experientially and financially. David took an entry level position and to no one's surprise, he was promoted after two weeks on the job, eventually becoming a Chemical Operator. After 18 years of gainful employment and faithful service, David retired from the company in 1992.

One of David's favorite past times throughout his life was playing golf.

Learning the game as a young adult, David played almost daily; perfecting his game at well-known golf courses throughout Michigan and in other states. He became a member of the Mall City League, where he played for over two decades; and, alongside his best friend Gerald Jones, he won the league

championship several times. David's passion for golf was infectious to his family. He and his daughter Doreen often played as a father/daughter team, winning many tournaments. In their retirement David and Jackie enjoyed traveling to Florida during the winter months to play golf, while spending time with his family.

More than golf, David's great love was for his family. "Papa", as David was affectionally called, was adored by his children and grandchildren. He was present for all their events, big and small, including first days of school, concerts, sporting events, birthdays, graduations and weddings. When no one else was present, if "papa" knew, he was there (rain, snow or sunshine), even if he had to walk. As his grandchildren and great grandchildren grew and developed interests of their own, David put his trips to Florida on hold to be sure he could attend every game. Papa treated everyone, family or not, with the same unconditional love. He had no "in-laws", everyone was family to him; and, he made every person he encountered feel special.

Many noteworthy things have been shared about this amazing husband, father and grandfather. However, the most important to note, is not only that he accepted Christ as his personal Savior, but that he truly lived out his personal relationship with the Lord. While golf was his passion and family his love, David testified openly that his relationship with God was more important; and, worshipping God with his church family became his Sunday joy. Even as his health began to decline, he made his way to church and fulfillment hour every week until the COVID-19 pandemic closed the church.

David accepted the hand of God and left his earthen vessel on Saturday, January 9, 2021.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Robert Smith Jr. and Henry Smith. He leaves to celebrate and honor his memory, his wife of 68 years, Jacqueline; three devoted children: Reverend Doreen (Clarence) Gardner, Dolores Smith, and David (Garrie) Smith, all of Kalamazoo, MI. A brother, John (Bebe) E. Dixson of Oceanside, California; two sisters, Barbara

Barrington and Clare Brown of Tampa, Florida. Two Brothers in Law; Dennis (Myra) Johnson and Martin Johnson of Kalamazoo, MI. Seven grandchildren, one great grandson, and six great-great grandchildren; two special friends: Gerald Jones and JC Turner; as well as a host of nieces, nephews cousins and loving friends.

# Cemetery Details

## **Mt. Ever-Rest Memorial Park (S. Westnedge Avenue)**

3941 S. Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. David Smith



Harper Funeral Home - January 15, 2021 at 02:47 PM

DI

Take up your wings and rest cousin David we love you but God loves you more,

DiannaJackson - January 15, 2021 at 06:25 PM



“ Mr. David Smith

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. David Smith

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM

NF

“ Neal Higgins And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith



Neal Higgins and Family - January 25, 2021 at 05:46 PM

DF

“ *Darlene Zackery And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



**Darlene Zackery and Family** - January 19, 2021 at 09:05 AM

PB

“ *Paul & Margaret Best lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



**Paul & Margaret Best** - January 18, 2021 at 12:22 AM

RW

“ *REMENYI WILLIAMS sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith*



**REMENYI WILLIAMS** - January 17, 2021 at 09:18 PM

KG

“ *Katen Gray sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith*



**Katen Gray** - January 17, 2021 at 05:05 PM

ES

“ *Ellen Spencer lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Ellen Spencer** - January 17, 2021 at 12:40 PM

CM

“ *Camille F. McMillan lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Camille F. McMillan** - January 17, 2021 at 10:07 AM

AT

“ *My condolences to his family*



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**Alice Taylor** - January 17, 2021 at 06:41 AM

CW

“ *Jackie, our prayers and condolences goes to you and the family . We pray that you will allow the Holy Spirit to minister to each of you in ways that only He knows best.*

*Love,  
Carl L.and Forest Wilson*



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**Carl & Florest Wilson** - January 16, 2021 at 12:45 PM

TZ

“ One of the main reasons I ever picked up a golf club and played the game I continue to play to this day. Thanks for that Mr. Smith! My condolences and prayers to the family.

-Trey Z.

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**Trey Zackery** - January 16, 2021 at 11:58 AM

GW

“ Gloria Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



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**Gloria Wilkerson** - January 16, 2021 at 11:23 AM

TF

“ The Fields Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith



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**The Fields Family** - January 16, 2021 at 08:24 AM

RF

“ Royetta Fry-Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith



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**Royetta Fry-Walker** - January 15, 2021 at 09:28 PM

CB

“ Cordell & Brenda lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



Cordell & Brenda - January 15, 2021 at 07:00 PM

GG

“ Guenetta Gordon sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith



Guenetta Gordon - January 15, 2021 at 02:05 PM



“ 37 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harper Funeral Home - January 15, 2021 at 01:57 PM

KD

“ *Kevin Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



Kevin Dunigan - January 15, 2021 at 11:48 AM



“ *Sending sincere condolence to Jackie and family. My prayers and thoughts are with you at the time.*

Modean Reeves - January 15, 2021 at 11:42 AM

MR

“ *MODEAN AND HUBERT REEVES lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



MODEAN AND HUBERT REEVES - January 15, 2021 at 11:38 AM

AT

“ *Angela Tabron lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



Angela Tabron - January 15, 2021 at 10:53 AM

JG

“ JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr-Atlanta GA sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith



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**JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr-Atlanta GA** - January 15, 2021 at 10:48 AM

FF

“ Frank&Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



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**Frank&Betty Ford** - January 15, 2021 at 10:27 AM

CG

“ To Mrs. Jackie and family let God's peace comfort you at this time. Mr. Smith a very nice and humble man much respect for him. RIP. Curtis G Gardner.

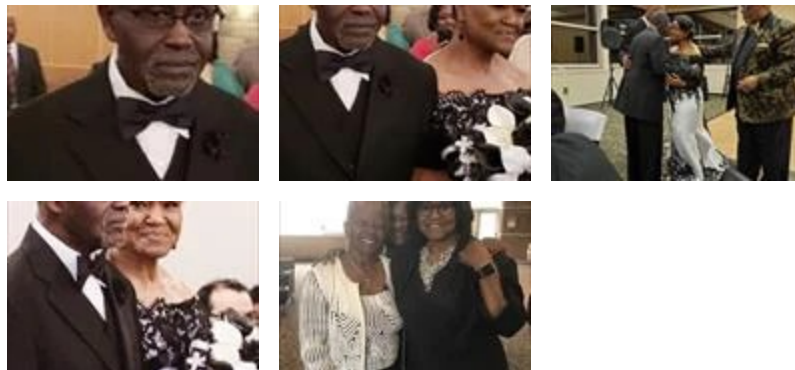


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**Curtis G Gardner** - January 15, 2021 at 09:20 AM

DO

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Doreen - January 15, 2021 at 07:44 AM

CB

“ Creola C Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



Creola C Buchanan - January 15, 2021 at 02:42 AM

KR

“ Katherine Ross lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



Katherine Ross - January 15, 2021 at 02:41 AM

CB

“ *Creola C Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Creola C Buchanan** - January 15, 2021 at 02:40 AM

JH

“ *Jerry Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Jerry Harris** - January 14, 2021 at 11:18 PM

SW

“ *Stacy Woodard sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Stacy Woodard** - January 14, 2021 at 08:23 PM

JH

“ *Joan Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Joan Harris** - January 14, 2021 at 06:48 PM

FF

“ *Frank&Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



Frank&Betty Ford - January 14, 2021 at 01:27 PM

SW

“ *Selena Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



Selena Walker - January 14, 2021 at 11:48 AM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith*



Pauline Gardner - January 14, 2021 at 11:15 AM

TD

“ *Tanya Dunn lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



Tanya Dunn - January 14, 2021 at 10:55 AM

LB

“ LB lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



LB - January 14, 2021 at 10:36 AM

PA

“ My condolences to the Smith family.  
Paula (Wilson) Armstrong family



Paula (Wilson) Armstrong - January 14, 2021 at 09:19 AM

AT

“ Angela Fedee Tabron lit a candle in memory  
of Mr. David Smith



Angela Fedee Tabron - January 14, 2021 at 08:02 AM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in  
memory of Mr. David Smith



Dallas Boards and family - January 13, 2021 at 06:25 PM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Embrey lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Jo Ann Embrey** - January 13, 2021 at 02:08 PM

DB

“ *Dallas Blocker lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Dallas Blocker** - January 13, 2021 at 11:16 AM

EF

“ *Earline Fields sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Earline Fields** - January 13, 2021 at 10:03 AM

PS

“ *Percy And Cindy Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith*



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**Percy and Cindy Smith** - January 13, 2021 at 09:55 AM

HB

“ David, loved his Mother, he visited her every day at the nursing home. He said to me I want to keep her walking as long as I can. David was a caring, kind, thoughtful and soft spoken man.



Helen (Mills) Brooks - January 13, 2021 at 08:52 AM

TF

“ The Daniel Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



The Daniel Family - January 13, 2021 at 08:02 AM



“ Margaret Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



Margaret Smith - January 13, 2021 at 07:11 AM



“ Margaret Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Smith



Margaret Smith - January 13, 2021 at 07:08 AM

JD

*Mr. David Smith was a very kind and caring man who had a heart for people. He was interested in joining the men's mentoring ministry despite his health. That takes Godly Love.*

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**John & Carolyn Davis** - January 16, 2021 at 10:49 AM