



## Mr. Jessie James Smith

February 19, 1922 - June 1, 2017

Mr. Jessie James Smith went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, June 1, 2017 in Kalamazoo, MI. He was born February 19, 1922 the son of Seth and Sarah in Houston, MS. He was raised in the Delta by his "Ma Ma", Mariah Holliman.

At the age of 19 years old, Jessie came to Kalamazoo, MI where he joined Second Baptist Church, serving as a Trustee and on the Usher Board for many years until his health failed.

Jessie was employed at Allied Paper Mill for 28 years, The City of Kalamazoo for 16 years and Imperial Beverage for 10 years until he retired.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Seth and Sarah; his "MaMa", Mariah Holliman; his wife of 40 years, Christine; 13 brothers and 8 sisters.

Jessie loved his family and had many friends who he would call and visit often. He touched the lives of many people who lovingly acknowledged him as "Uncle Jessie". He shared his knowledge and wisdom with all, loved to travel and was well known wherever he went. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Jessie leaves to cherish his memory: James (Jada) Smith of Kalamazoo, MI;

Suzette (Joe) May of Jackson, MS; Ernestine Davison of Dayton, OH; Dallas (Patricia) Blocker of Jackson, FL and Jeffra Bell of Kalamazoo, MI; two brothers, Ozie Smith of Cleveland, OH and Larry Spragin (Lealue) of Shannon, MS; 15 grandchildren and several great, great great and great great great grandchildren; 1 special niece, Mrs. Jessie Mae Carver of Kalamazoo, MI; special friends, Sara Hodges, Ethel Smith and Mary Kate Gibson of Kalamazoo, MI and a host of nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery

3941 S. Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Visitation

JUN **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church  
609 N. Rose Street  
Kalamazoo, MI

## A Homegoing Celebration

JUN **10**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church  
609 N. Rose Street  
Kalamazoo, MI



# Tribute Wall



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



Harper Funeral Home - June 08, 2017 at 09:33 PM

BN

Please accept my heartfelt condolences. Our love to you all! God Bless!! 🌟🙏🌟🙏🌟

Bobbie Nabors - June 11, 2017 at 01:09 AM

JN

We come as we depart. In peace is our rightful path leading to eternity.  
Jackie Nevitt

Jackie Nevitt - June 15, 2017 at 09:21 AM

AR

I found out Mr Smith had passed Tonight [6/16/17] and I was sadden to hear it, Mr Smith was like an Uncle to me. He was the first person to explain to me why People from "down home" would go back driving "big cars", it wasn't to show off but they had to have room for all the members of their family they took with them. He and my father [Robert Gene Gaston] were best of friends and I supposed it was only natural because they were born 3 days apart Mr Smith being the senior. May G-d bless Mr Smith to enter the Paradise, forgive him of sins and bless him for all the good that he did....Amin  
Abdul-R Rashid

Abdul-R Rashid - June 17, 2017 at 08:42 PM



“ *Mr. Jessie James Smith*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. Jessie James Smith*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Abdul-R Rashid lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith*



**Abdul-R Rashid** - June 17, 2017 at 08:47 PM



“ *Roy Calvin Spencer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith*



**Roy Calvin Spencer** - June 15, 2017 at 09:29 PM



“ *Vicky Burns lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith*



**vicky burns** - June 13, 2017 at 04:20 PM

DF

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



Dallas Boards and family - June 10, 2017 at 04:41 PM

EF

“ Earline Fields And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Earline Fields and Family - June 10, 2017 at 03:21 PM

BP

“ Barbara Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Barbara Phillips - June 10, 2017 at 10:27 AM

KD

“ Kevin Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Kevin Dunigan - June 09, 2017 at 04:20 PM

DB

“ Donald And Ruby (Walker) Barbee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Donald and Ruby (Walker) Barbee - June 09, 2017 at 07:54 AM

CB

“ Carrie Baker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Carrie Baker - June 08, 2017 at 10:20 PM

JD

“ Jack Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Jack Dunigan - June 08, 2017 at 11:23 AM

GM

“ Mr. Smith was a good friend of my parents. As a young person growing up in Kalamazoo he was a part of that generation that made that community so special. Although I've not seen Mr. Smith in many years, I have good memories of him and his wife and family.

Gregory Moorehead - June 07, 2017 at 06:48 PM

TS

“ You have our condolences.  
The Mills Sisters



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**The Mills Sisters** - June 07, 2017 at 05:02 PM

TS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**The Mills Sisters** - June 07, 2017 at 04:58 PM

GK

“ Grand Daughter, Kim lit a candle in memory  
of Mr. Jessie James Smith



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**Grand Daughter, Kim** - June 07, 2017 at 03:07 PM

KI

“ Grandpa gave me so many memories. The one memory that I can think of and it brings a smile to my face, is when I would come to visit for the summer and he would come from work, get out his car see me sitting on the porch, put his hand in his pocket and jiggle his coins and say " I saved these for you all day so you can go to the gas station and get you some candy". Man, I would take off like a rocket before grandma could tell me no. I am so very glad that I was **BLESSED** to have a grandpa that gave me so much. I said it to you many times but I want to say it one more time Love you gramps. Rest In Heaven. Your Grand Daughter, Kim.

kim - June 07, 2017 at 03:06 PM

ES

*Uncle Jessie: You were and will always be a special uncle. It was wonderful of you to share the times you spent with my in-laws in Tunica Mississippi. God bless you. You will be missed.*

Ed Smith - June 08, 2017 at 03:44 PM

MJ

“ Mary (Mitchell) Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Mary (Mitchell) Johnson - June 07, 2017 at 02:06 PM

SF

“ Smith Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



Smith Family - June 05, 2017 at 10:10 AM

MH

“ We would like to pass along our sympathies to Jessie's family. We enjoyed visiting and dining with Jessie at Upjohn / Heritage as we shared our stories about life in Kalamazoo and learned about his long life. It was a joy to know him and we'll miss him.

- Mark & Mary Sue Hoffman

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**Mark Hoffman** - June 04, 2017 at 07:57 PM

KS

“ Karen Sheppard-Gray lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



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**Karen Sheppard-Gray** - June 04, 2017 at 08:38 AM

PG

“ Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



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**Pauline Gardner** - June 04, 2017 at 06:55 AM

DB

“ Dallas & Patricia Blocker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jessie James Smith



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**Dallas & Patricia Blocker** - June 04, 2017 at 12:18 AM

HB

“ *Helen Mills Brooks lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Jessie James Smith*



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**Helen Mills Brooks** - June 03, 2017 at 08:25 PM