



Mr. Sam Smith

October 14, 1924 - July 19, 2019

****NOTE: Visitations & Service Locations Listed Below****

Sam Smith, age 94, also known as “Smitty” Passed away at his residence on July 19, 2019 with his wife by his side. Sam was born on October 14, 1924 in Blytheville, AR, the son of Henry Smith and Sara Vanhook.

While visiting family in Tennessee Smitty met the love of his life, Lurlene Jackson. In 1949, they united in marriage and resided in Tennessee where 8 children were born. They later relocated to Chicago, IL in 1961 where 2 of the youngest children were born, and they rounded out their family with 10 children.

Smitty moved his family to Kalamazoo in 1971. He began working at Burroughs Corporation for several years, until in 1978 he started his own business, Smitty Tow Service. He loved working on cars just as much as he enjoyed towing them. You could always find him at Speedway racetrack enjoying the car races or working towing cars. Sam also enjoyed traveling, family cook-outs, fishing and walking his dogs, Chewy and Piggy.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Smith and Sara Smith; 3 brothers, Charlie Smith, Willie Smith and John Smith; 2 sisters, Alberta Jones and Rosette Smith; 5 children: Freddie George, Mary Jo Smith and Shirley

White; 1 grandson, Samuel Smith and 1 daughter, Jacqueline E. Smith.

Sam leaves to cherish his memories: his loving wife of 70 years. Lurlene Smith; his children, Sammy, Robert, Jerry (Mary), Michael (Nicole), Randy (Ida), Ricky, Prince Johnson all of Kalamazoo, MI; and Geraldine Smith-Hughes of Pittsburgh, PA.

Also, a special godson, Bob Pitchford of Kalamazoo. Sam had much love watching 4 generations of grandchildren grow: 41 grandchildren; 43 great grandchildren; 86 great-great grandchildren; and 24 great-great-great grandchildren. He also leaves several relatives and friends who will greatly miss him.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Visitation

JUL 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

A Service in Loving Memory

JUL 31. 12:00 PM (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. Sam Smith



Harper Funeral Home - July 29, 2019 at 10:46 PM



“ Mr. Sam Smith

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Sam Smith

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



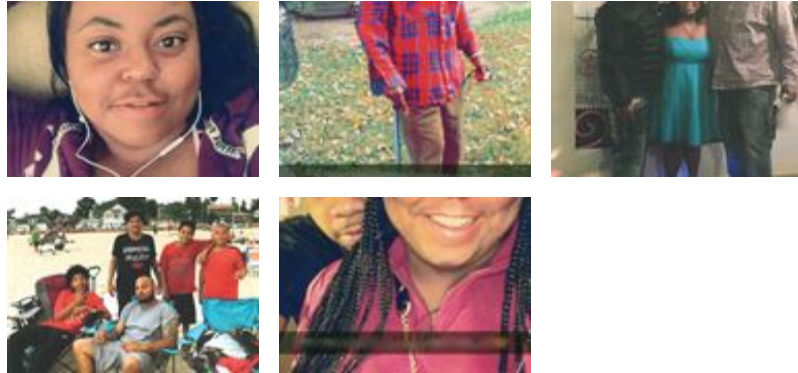
“ Lula Ligon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Lula Ligon - August 03, 2019 at 12:38 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Harper Funeral Home - July 30, 2019 at 09:59 PM

AJ

“ *Rest In Peace Smitty you are loved and will be missed dearly by many . My husband Al and I raced at Kalamazoo Speedway for years and every race night we would go over to Smitty's wrecker and talked a few minutes with him and Mrs Smitty as everyone called her. Some times Mrs Smitty was not with Smitty because she was playing bingo. We really enjoyed those talks and have never forgotten the sweetest and nicest couple that we were very lucky to have known. To Mrs Smitty our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family. Al and Darlene Johnson*

Al and Darlene Johnson - July 30, 2019 at 07:34 PM

YH

“ *Yvonne Heltzel sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Yvonne Heltzel - July 30, 2019 at 07:27 PM

BB

“ *my sincere condolences to the entire Smith family*



Beverly Brown - July 30, 2019 at 04:14 PM



“ *Karest Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Karest Brown - July 29, 2019 at 08:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Sam Smith.*



July 29, 2019 at 07:27 PM

JH

“ *Rest with God great granddad we love you*

*Love, all your great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren in Pittsburgh Pa,
Geraldine Hughes your daughter and Jackie hughes great granddaughter*



Jackie hughes - July 29, 2019 at 02:06 PM

JH

“ R.W.Great Granddad we love you and will never forget you💕

Love. Jackie Hughes and woody family💕💕💕



Jackie hughes - July 27, 2019 at 08:46 AM

JH

“ Jackie Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Jackie hughes - July 27, 2019 at 08:41 AM

DW

“ Mr. Sam Smith....Smitty. You will truly be missed. Another Gem has left this place and gone Home. Your grandson "Ricquan" will miss you dearly. You were a great grandfather to him. You would always smile from experience ear to ear when you would see him or speak of him. You were very special to Quan although he may not have come around to often, he loved you dearly. Ricquan has a lot of your ways especially his love for music. He enjoys listening to music from the 30's, etc. You will be missed soo dearly but we know that you have gone Home. No more suffering. Heaven became even brighter when you welcomed in. Praying for the family. God please watch over Lurlene and bless her with the strength to make it through this most difficult time.

Deborah E Woodard - July 26, 2019 at 09:28 PM

DW

“ *Deborah E Woodard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Deborah E Woodard - July 26, 2019 at 09:15 PM

BB

“ *Bari Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Bari Brown - July 26, 2019 at 01:56 AM

MR

“ *Maxine (McMillon) Roberts sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Maxine (McMillon) Roberts - July 25, 2019 at 11:41 PM

AS

“ *Sending our condolences Nicole, Qua, Syncere and Des*



Antoinette N Smith - July 25, 2019 at 03:16 PM

DF

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



Dallas Boards and family - July 25, 2019 at 02:54 PM

AS

“ *Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Alma Snell - July 24, 2019 at 11:28 PM

RL

“ *Ramona Lumpkin sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Ramona Lumpkin - July 24, 2019 at 08:21 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Pauline Gardner - July 24, 2019 at 10:38 AM

BB

“ *Birletta Bean-Hardeman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Birletta Bean-Hardeman - July 24, 2019 at 08:10 AM

SB

“ *Sharon Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Sharon Buchanan - July 23, 2019 at 11:58 PM

KG

“ *Karen Gray lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Karen Gray - July 23, 2019 at 08:35 PM

TF

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



The Fields Family - July 23, 2019 at 12:43 PM

GS

“ Gwendolyn Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Gwendolyn Smith - July 23, 2019 at 11:54 AM

D(

“ THE MOORE FAMILY lit a candle on behalf of Sam Smith.



Denise Moore (Hensley) - July 22, 2019 at 11:03 PM

AS

“ Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Alma Snell - July 22, 2019 at 01:35 PM

TS

“ My Condolences to the Smith Family



Tina Johnson (Stafford) - July 22, 2019 at 10:25 AM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



PATTERSON FAMILY - July 22, 2019 at 09:34 AM

DS

“ *I'll miss you grandpa* 🤍🙏



DaVonda Smith - July 21, 2019 at 10:25 PM

SS

“ *My Condolences goes out to my Great Great Grandfather Smitty you will truly be missed. Love you until we meet again. Sincerely your loving Great Great Granddaughter Ms. Sa'Layah Smith*

Sa'layiah DH Smith - July 21, 2019 at 02:31 PM

SS

“ *Sa'layiah DH Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith*



Sa'layiah DH Smith - July 21, 2019 at 02:25 PM

LP

“ Lakeysha Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Lakeysha Pratt - July 21, 2019 at 11:40 AM



“ Georgia Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Georgia Williams - July 21, 2019 at 11:06 AM

DB

“ Danold & Ruby (Walker) Barbee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Danold & Ruby (Walker) Barbee - July 21, 2019 at 10:57 AM

LP

“ Lakeysha Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Lakeysha Pratt - July 20, 2019 at 09:04 PM

JT

“ Jessica Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Jessica Taylor - July 20, 2019 at 08:26 PM

TF

“ The Walker Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



The Walker Family - July 20, 2019 at 12:11 AM

HB

“ Helen (Mills) Brooks sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Helen (Mills) Brooks - July 19, 2019 at 10:37 PM

JW

“ Jeanetta Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sam Smith



Jeanetta Walker - July 19, 2019 at 08:50 PM