



## Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.

December 9, 1952 - January 23, 2018

Terrell A. Smith I, affectionately known as "Terry", or "T" departed from this life on January 23, 2018 in Kalamazoo, MI. He was born December 9, 1952 in Des Moines, IA to Anthony Morrow and Bara Jo Smith. A graduate of East High School in 1971, Terry went on to earn an AA in Sociology and Psychiatry from Colorado State University, and a BA in Sociology from Metro State University. He also was a two-time scholar award winner in African American Studies. Upon graduation, he served as the VP of Operations for the Greater LA Patrol. He went onto become Regional Manager for Loss Prevention for the Courtyard by Marriott Hotels in Chicago, IL, where he was recognized for saving a person's life. An active Mason in Illinois, he also served as a youth counselor and was president of his own company, entitled "TJS Enterprises".

In 1980, Terry married Joy Richardson and together they have 2 children, Terrell II and Chrissana. Although the two divorced in 1987, they both continued to be active co-parents in their children's lives.

Terry moved to Kalamazoo, MI in 1996 to be near his children and worked as a youth counselor and substance abuse counselor in the Kalamazoo,, Battle Creek and Benton Harbor areas, where he impacted the lives of many people.

Terry had a passion for athletics, football, running and karate. In 2017, he received an honorary 3rd degree black belt from his home dojo in Denver, CO.

Terry was a spiritual person and was a faithful member of Galilee Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, where he participated in weekly service even from his laptop when he couldn't be there in person. A percussionist, writer, NLP Practitioner and motivational speaker, he will forever be remembered for his words of wisdom and passion for the forward movement of African American people.

He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Minnie Russell and his mother, Bara Jo Gater both of Denver, CO; and his father, Anthony Morrow of Des Moines, IA.

Terry leaves behind to cherish his memory: his ex wife, Joy Smith of Kalamazoo, MI; his children, Terrell Smith II (Brittany); and Chrissana (Franklin) Fowlkes all of Kalamazoo, MI; grandchildren: Ajane, De'Ja, Taijah, Aa'Mari, Jordynn and Roman; three brothers, Shawn Gater, Mark Gater and Jeffery Gater; nephews, Stefan and Daren Gater; and nieces, Chanea Gater all of Denver, CO and Nakia Gater all of Orlando, FL. Also, a host of great nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He stated once if he could sum up his life in one statement, he would say, "God, family, football. A 100% first-class, stand-up guy".

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

## A Service in Loving Memory

FEB 3. 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. Terrell A. Smith Sr.



Harper Funeral Home - February 02, 2018 at 08:16 PM

JM

*This is such a beautiful tribute to such a beautiful Man and Spirit. God has blessed many through his life of Service and Love. Rest in The Arms of Jesus! 🙏*

Jonetta McCutchen - February 03, 2018 at 06:27 PM



“ Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ Rest in Heaven my long time friend and teammate. I will always remember the good times I had with you and KT. George Speliotos. Angels 71.

George Speliotos - December 03, 2021 at 09:39 PM

GS

“ Rest In Peace my friend and brother. We will play again soon enough. Angels forever.

George Speliotes - August 15, 2021 at 01:25 AM



“ Valerie Boggan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.



Valerie Boggan - February 02, 2018 at 11:38 PM



TJ, Chrissy, & Joy: I am so sorry for your loss. Terry was a great man, whom I adored and respected. We laughed a lot when we worked together and his love for you was unwavering. He always shared stories about you growing up! When I would encounter him at the grocery stories his stories included his grandchildren! I will keep you in my prayers.

Valerie Boggan - February 02, 2018 at 11:41 PM

AT

“ Alice Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.



Alice Taylor - February 02, 2018 at 08:25 PM



Rest in peace my brother.

Archie White - March 17, 2018 at 09:43 AM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Pauline Gardner** - February 02, 2018 at 04:47 PM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**PATTERSON FAMILY** - February 02, 2018 at 12:01 PM

NH

“ *Nikia Walker Hall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Nikia Walker Hall** - February 02, 2018 at 10:10 AM

NH

“ *You affectionately called me your "other daughter" in 1996...I wouldn't let anyone else call me that but you. You will be greatly missed "Dad".*

---

**Nikia Walker Hall** - February 02, 2018 at 10:09 AM

AG

“ Rest Peacefully Uncle Terry!! My Condolences and Prayers are with you all ❤️

Andria R. Grant - February 01, 2018 at 02:59 PM

LK

“ LRU staff at KPH purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr..



LRU staff at KPH - February 01, 2018 at 06:56 AM

LF

“ LRU Crew family & friends purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr..



LRU Crew family & friends - February 01, 2018 at 03:35 AM

EW

“ El Wallace lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.



El Wallace - January 31, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr..*



January 31, 2018 at 12:40 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Master Curtis Payne** - January 30, 2018 at 07:48 AM



“ *Caroline J Fitzgerald lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



**Caroline J Fitzgerald** - January 28, 2018 at 07:19 PM



“ *Kizzy Bradford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



**Kizzy Bradford** - January 28, 2018 at 01:54 PM

AM

“ To my “brother”: I will miss our Bronco chats and the shared comments about everything going on. You are at peace I know. To your family, I hope you are comforted knowing how much he loved you all. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Annita Menogan, Denver, fellow East Angel.



Annita Menogan - January 28, 2018 at 12:31 PM

KJ

“ My condolences to the family. I grew up in the Parkhill neighborhood and have known and been friends with the Gator family for many many years. God bless. Karen Hutchinson Jones.

Karen Hutchinson Jones - January 28, 2018 at 10:24 AM



“ Pamela Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.



Pamela Carter - January 28, 2018 at 10:14 AM

Bryan Gordon

“ Bryan Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.



Bryan Gordon - January 28, 2018 at 09:57 AM



“ *Angel Spear lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Angel Spear** - January 27, 2018 at 10:45 PM



“ *Felicia Evans lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Felicia Evans** - January 27, 2018 at 02:49 PM



“ *LaRhondia Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**LaRhondia Williams** - January 27, 2018 at 12:02 PM



“ *Dee Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Dee Smith** - January 27, 2018 at 07:54 AM

DJ

“ *DaNetta R Julian lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



-----  
**DaNetta R Julian** - January 27, 2018 at 07:41 AM

SW

“ *Selena Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



-----  
**Selena Walker** - January 27, 2018 at 06:45 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr..*



-----  
January 26, 2018 at 11:25 PM

WF

“ *Wendy Fields sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



-----  
**Wendy Fields** - January 26, 2018 at 07:14 PM

NH

“ *Nikia Walker Hall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Nikia Walker Hall** - January 26, 2018 at 03:39 PM

SG

“ *Shirley Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Shirley Gordon** - January 26, 2018 at 03:05 PM

FF

“ *Frank And Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Frank and Betty Ford** - January 26, 2018 at 09:44 AM

IR

“ *To The Smith Family:*

*Our prayers and condolences are with you during this time of breavement.*

*Love, Frank, Ida and Jaudon Robinson*



---

**Ida Robinson** - January 26, 2018 at 12:13 AM

GF

“ *Gwendolyn Smith And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Gwendolyn Smith and Family** - January 25, 2018 at 07:25 PM

GG

“ *Guenetta Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**Guenetta Gordon** - January 25, 2018 at 03:43 PM

WJ

“ *William & Laverne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terrell A. Smith Sr.*



---

**William & Laverne Jones** - January 24, 2018 at 10:59 PM