



Mr. Willie Charles Smith

July 24, 1933 - August 20, 2015

Willie Charles Smith, Sr., 82, born July 24, 1933 in Opelika, Alabama to the late Mary Charles Mathews, was called to his eternal home on August 20, 2015. God saw his child was tired and sent his angels to carry him home for eternal rest.

He was a 1953 graduate of J.W. Darden High School, after graduation he joined the U.S. Army and was Honorably Discharge and went on to Alabama State University, where he received his B.S. M.S and A.A. degrees. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and a member of Alabama State ISTAP (I Support The Athletics Program). For 28 years he was employed with the Lee County Board of Education at Loachapoka Elementary and High School teaching math and as an assistant principal.

Other endeavors close to his heart was owner of Smith Grocery Store, Springhill Neighborhood Association, The Darden House Foundation and Keep Opelika Beautiful, the Lee County Alumni Chapter of Alabama State University. He was truly a passionate follower of Alabama State University Fighting Hornets and the nationally renowned Marching Band. He had a love for entertaining, dancing and playing cards.

Mr. Smith was preceded in death by: his mother, Mrs. Mary Charles (Richard) Mathews; his daughter, Vivian Elaine Smith; and niece Mary Lynne Thomas.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at Thompson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church with Rev. Melvin Perry pastor-officiant and Rev. Jerry Dowdell as the eulogist. The family will receive family and friends Tuesday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. His remains will lie in state at the church one hour prior to the service.

He is survived by his loving and devoted family: his sons, Gregory Charles Smith, Atlanta, GA and Willie Charles (Nona) Smith, Jr. (his caregiver), Opelika, AL; Grandchildren, Brandon Smith, Opelika, AL, Danielle (Jeremy) Workman, Atlanta, GA, Brian Smith, Alexander City, AL, Justin Smith, Atlanta, GA; Great-Grandchildren, Jequavion and Sydney Workman, Atlanta, GA; loving, caring only sister, Dorothy M. Flakes, Opelika, AL; Nieces, Sireta E. Parker, Muriel M. Thomas (special caregiver), Opelika, AL., Bridget (Dewayne) Gainey, Homerville, GA; Nephews, Johnny Brunoto (Dorothea) Thomas, Tappahannock, VA, Carlos Andre (Inell) Flakes, Opelika, AL; Great-Nieces, Diandra P. Thomas, Wilkes-Barre, PA, Holley S. (Brent) Johnson, Atlanta, GA; Great-Nephews, Trenneddy T. Thomas, Marietta, GA, Johnny B. Thomas, II, Tappahannock, VA, and Darryl (Kerry) Thomas, Fredericksburg, VA; Aunt, Gerri Smith, Morrestown, NJ; Cousins, Loretta Smith, Washington, DC, Sarita Berry, Berkley, CA; God Sister, Patsy (William) Parker, Opelika, AL; The mothers of his children, Pearl Moody, Atlanta, GA and Ann (Isadore) Cooper, Atlanta, GA; Special friends, to the family, John Morgan, Walter Lee Hill, Montgomery, AL, Freddie Stephens, Columbus, GA, Geraldine Smith, Killeen, TX, Ellen Roberts, Barbara Smith, Atlanta, GA, Sherry Smith, Alexander City, AL, Janice Philpot, Auburn, AL, Thomas (Birdie) Peterson, Tep Peterson, Annie Jean Stringer, Opelika, AL and Barbara Mitchell all of Opelika, AL; Neighbors of York Ave., Lindsey Ct. and Springhill Ave.; The late Rev. A.L. Wilson's Family, Thompson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church family and former students of Loachapoka Elementary and High School; Former

caregivers and friends, Inez Hughley, Josephine Thomas, Lee (Dornita) Harris, Frank Williams and Mary H. Reese; a host of other family members and friends.

Cemetery Details

Garden Hills Cemetery

1218 Frederick Road
Opelika, AL 36801

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 25. 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Peterson and Williams Funeral Home
1016 McCoy Street
Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 745-6473
pw1016mccoy@hotmail.com

Family Receiving Hour

AUG 25. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Peterson and Williams Funeral Home
1016 McCoy Street
Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 745-6473
pw1016mccoy@hotmail.com

Lie in state

AUG 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Thompson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church
187 Columbus Parkway
Opelika, AL

Service

AUG 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

Thompson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church
187 Columbus Parkway
Opelika, AL

Tribute Wall



“ Peterson and Williams Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Willie Charles Smith



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - August 25, 2015 at 10:21 AM

EM

Rest in Paradise Uncle Willie Charles.

Elizabeth Ferguson Mallett - August 27, 2015 at 12:39 AM



“ Mr. Willie Charles Smith

January 29, 2023 at 11:13 AM

EM

“ Rest in Paradise Uncle Willie Charles.

Elizabeth Ferguson Mallett - August 27, 2015 at 12:42 AM

EM

“ Elizabeth Ferguson Mallett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie Charles Smith



Elizabeth Ferguson Mallett - August 27, 2015 at 12:41 AM

IL

“ Our deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time of grieving. Ingram and Shirley

Ingram & Shirley Lilly - August 26, 2015 at 01:09 PM

GM

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Willie Charles Smith. He was a very dear friend of my late Aunt Juanita Pearson. We always enjoyed his visits when she came home to Opelika. My prayers are with you during this time of grief.
Gwendolyn Mitchell, Brooklyn, NY

Gwendolyn Mitchell - August 25, 2015 at 09:24 PM



“ 31 files added to the album Life Tributes



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - August 24, 2015 at 03:37 PM

AT

“ Annie Lee Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie Charles Smith



Annie Lee Thomas - August 24, 2015 at 05:54 AM

EF

“ To the Smith Family, We extend our deepest sympathy & pray that God will grant you strength and peace during this difficult time.
Eddie & Rebecca Flakes, Las Vegas NV



Eddie & Rebecca Flakes - August 23, 2015 at 07:57 PM



“ My condolences to the family of Mr. Willie Charles Smith. Blessings and continued strength to you during these times and forever more.

Ruby James - August 23, 2015 at 05:07 PM

DT

“ Even though we will miss you we do know you are no longer in pain and suffering. You are resting peacefully. Act 25:14... Your nephew, Brunoto and Dorothea

Dorothea Thomas - August 21, 2015 at 05:31 PM

AT

*Rest in peace Mr. Smith. You was like a father to me and my children. We all love you but God love you more.
Annie Lee Thomas and family*

Annie Lee Thomas - August 24, 2015 at 05:56 AM