



## Ernestine C. Smith

October 21, 1924 - June 5, 2015

In the end, one is judged by how he/she treats children. Ernestine Cora Marshall Smith exemplified a true caregiver of children and anyone in need of loving care. Mrs. Smith was born to Professor Ora Paige Marshall and Corrie Marshall in Learned, Mississippi. She is a product of a loving, caring, and nurturing community of Paige Grove community where every need was supplied by the community members. After high school, Mrs. Smith moved to Minneapolis, MN where her brother, Mr. Edgar Marshall paved the way for her to gain employment and continue post secondary training. Following her brother to Chicago, Illinois, Ernestine met her husband, Mr. John H. Smith. They married March 10, 1956 and moved to Baltimore, Maryland. While living there, John's sister, Mrs. Lucille Smith Vernon passed away leaving her husband Mr. Edward Vernon Sr. with eight beautiful children. John and Ernestine raised the youngest three, Lucille, Edward Jr., and Deborah, which required tremendous sacrifices of time and finances. They stayed committed to all eight children; majority of the remaining five (Barbara, Christine, Martha, Esther and Elnora) at some point in their lives were recipients of John's and Ernestine's generosity, spending time in their home. These unselfish acts demonstrated their love for children. Ernestine's nieces and nephews on the Marshall side of the family enjoyed many summers vacationing at her home. Sister Steen shared her finances with her siblings and supported their children collectively and individually.

Ernestine was truly a remarkable woman of God who faithfully served on boards, auxiliaries and choirs at First Baptist Church in Baltimore. When she moved to Chicago in 2001, Ernestine joined Third Baptist Church and studied the Bible diligently in Deacon Scott's Sunday school class. By being a woman of God, she spoke truth to power; Ernestine did not worry about personal popularity. She maintained and carried herself in a manner that many only hope to achieve in a lifetime.

Ernestine Smith is preceded in death by her loving husband John Smith; her parents Corrie and Ora Paige Marshall; her brother Edgar Marshall; her sisters Beatrice Walton and Rosie Covington. She will be greatly missed by her sisters, Dr. Fannie Primm, Louise Marshall, and Aundry Woods; her nephews Edgar Walton (Jenett), Robert Marshall, Herbert Marshall (Mary), and Harvey Marshall (Betty); her nieces Cynthia Jones, Regina Green (Raymond), Rochelle Woods (Harold Witherspoon), Dr. Teri Primm Ricks (Jeffrey), and Jonette Primm; her caregivers Donald and Sonya Martin and Rayford Pratt. Furthermore the memory of Ernestine Smith will be treasured by the Vernon family: Barbara Haynes (James), Christine Brinkley (Eddie), Martha Jane Harrell (Howard), Esther Foster, Elnora Vernon, Lucille Gibbs (deceased), Edward Vernon Jr., (Gwendolyn) and Deborah Vernon-Swift.

# Cemetery Details

## Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road  
Owings Mills, MD

# Previous Events

## Wake

JUN 10. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Service

JUN 10. 9:30 AM (ET)

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4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ernestine C. Smith*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Dear Steen, for many years you opened your house to both family and friends. There was always food, fun and laughter there and for that I will always be grateful. The Lord called your name and you answered...now it is time for you to Rest. Love Always, Michelle Powell and Family*

**Michelle Powell** - June 09, 2015 at 06:19 PM



“ *To the Family of Deaconess Ernestine C. Smith, We Chancel Choir of First Baptist Church thank God for her loving smile and would tell Bro. James C. Poney the Music was wonderful. we will truly her and thank God for love and joy she shared with us at First Baptist. With Deep Sympathy*

*Bro. James C. Poney Minister of Music Bro. Andre Cooper Sr.  
President of Choir  
Bro. Norman Jones Vice-President*

**Andre Cooper Sr** - June 08, 2015 at 08:46 PM



“ *Thank you Steen for being here for my family and I when we really needed you. From the bottom of our hearts we truly love you. Love forever, Christine Brinkley and Family.*

**Christine Brinkley** - June 08, 2015 at 05:17 PM

MV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Martha Vernon-Harrell** - June 07, 2015 at 06:41 PM

MV

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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**Martha Jane Vernon-Harrell** - June 07, 2015 at 06:26 PM

MV

“ *Dear Steen you fought a good fight, you finished the course, now Rest in the arms of our Heavenly Father. He set our paths on course to cross and cross they did, for over 50 years you were right in the middle of our lives. You and Uncle John were our Anchor. I do not want you to go, but I know you are in a much better place. Therefore, you take your rest for you did so much for us. I pray that in some small way, we returned the love and you knew how special you were to us. It hurts me to know that “the best of your story will never be told”. However, I know your story and you gave the Best of what you had to give. We love you Steen and our children love you more. The Vernon Sister’s and Jr. submitted by Martha Jane Vernon-Harrell*



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**Martha Jane Vernon-Harrell** - June 07, 2015 at 06:17 PM

DM

“ R.I.P MRS ERNESTINE YOU WILL BE  
MISSED MUCH LOVE TO YOU ALWAYS  
SONYA AND DONALD MARTIN



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**DONALD/SONYA MARTIN** - June 07, 2015 at 09:38 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and  
heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go  
out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and  
understand that you have received many expressions of love and  
we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you  
cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and  
comfort you always.

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**March Funeral Homes** - June 06, 2015 at 11:14 AM