



Gerald Leslie Smith

September 16, 1949 - February 10, 2026

Gerald Smith Obituary

Gerald Leslie Smith was a native of Richmond, Virginia, born on September 16, 1949, to the late Willie Smith Sr. and Courtney Jasper Smith. He was one of five siblings.

On February 17, 1978, Gerald married his wife of forty-seventy years, Russelyne Brown Smith. They were blessed with a son, Gerald Micah, who was his father's pride and joy.

Gerald was baptized at Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church as a child. He recently reaffirmed his Christian faith under the leadership and ministry of the late Rev. Dr. Sylvester L. Turner.

Gerald grew up in the Jackson Ward area and attended Richmond Public Schools, graduating from Maggie L. Walker High School in 1968. He was proud of being a MLW "Mighty Dragon" where he was a standout basketball player and a "Defensive Player of the Year". Gerald furthered his education at Norfolk State University on an athletic scholarship and was a valued point guard on several championship teams

Gerald was employed with the Department of Recreation and Parks in Virginia

Beach, VA. Also, he coached basketball at Norfolk Catholic, Norfolk, VA. After returning to Richmond, he worked for the Department of Recreation and Parks at several facilities throughout the city. He next worked for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, where he was initially employed as Physical Director and later became the Executive Director. Gerald shared his knowledge and love for basketball by serving as an assistant to Coach Pierce Callaham at Marshall Walker High School and with Coach Walter Penny at Armstrong High School. His final public sector job was with Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Gerald was an entrepreneur, who enjoyed preparing food and serving people. He fulfilled this passion by owning and operating a mobile food and catering service.

Gerald received service awards from several organizations, among them were: the Salvation Army Boy's Club, Randolph Tenant Council, and Marshall Walker High School. Also, he was featured in the Key Awareness newspaper. He was inducted into the Maggie Walker and Governor School Wall of Fame with his 1967-68 Championship Basketball Team.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents Willie and Courtney Smith. Brothers Willie Smith Jr., Robert Smith Sr., and Anthony Smith Sr., sister, Regina S. McFadden, brother-in-law, James W. McFadden, nephews: Anthony Smith Jr., Robert Smith Jr. (Chubby), Xavier Burgess, and niece Katrina Smith. He leaves to cherish his memory; devoted and loving wife, Russelyne B. Smith; a faithful son Gerald Micah Smith; brother, Bolden P. Smith (Aljawana,); Sisters in law; Dorothy Smith, Doris B. Mason, Carolyn Brown, Sandra Brown (Arthur), Kimberly and Michelle Brown; brothers in law; Ricardo Wiggins (Zoretha), Wyatt Kingston (Mary), Ronnie Brown (Brenda), Larry and David Brown; a host of nieces and nephews; most devoted, Montrell and Raven Mason, Raheem Brown, and Regina Smith.

Gerald's kindness was evident in how he cared for many nieces, nephews and

others who resided in their home. He was loved and admired for his patience, kindness, and generosity. He will be remembered for his faithful service, genuine compassion, devotion to family, friends, and legacy he leaves behind with all who knew him.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

3101 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA 23223

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Funeral Service with Live Stream

FEB **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

March Funeral Homes - February 26 at 01:37 PM



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Gerald L. Smith in memory of Gerald Leslie Smith*



March Funeral Homes - February 20 at 02:36 PM

HM

“ *Smith started me out in the game of basketball. Rip*

Henry Mayo - February 25 at 07:27 PM

MH

“ *I've known Gerald most of my life. We grew up together in the same neighborhood in Jackson Ward. We all went to the same schools ,churches and recreational centers. I always remember him as being soft spoken , generous, loyal and kind-hearted. He had a good soul and it was a true treasure to have had him as a friend in ones life . He will be truly missed by all those who were lucky enough to have known him.*

Myria Drew Hardy

Myria Drew Hardy - February 25 at 04:41 PM

BM

My Prayers and Condolences to Wife and Family

Brenda McCall - February 26 at 07:46 PM

BM

*Rusty You have
my Condolences*

Brenda McCall - February 26 at 07:48 PM

DB

“ *Demetrus Cunningham Black lit a candle in
memory of Gerald Leslie Smith*



Demetrus Cunningham Black - February 25 at 03:24 PM

MP

“ *Mr Smith was a great father, husband, & role model for his
community! Especially for his son Gerold, which he raised to be a
great kid. Rest easy Pops* ❤️

mike pilgrim - February 24 at 12:41 PM

WM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Gerald in Swatty' Men Shop (downtown) Richmond. I was 16 yrs. old in 1970 and worked there after school and holidays. Gerald would come home from college and work in Swatty's while home. I was the youngest brother there, Gerald, Pug, Earl Williams, and Sherman Logan taught me how dress with style and conficents. Gerald alway's greeted me with a smile and positive feedback on different topics. I will Miss the food bus from work and Graves School (He had Great! Sandwichs) . Rest In Peace my Brother, we will see you again. Milton E. Wood (Kelly)



wood milton - February 23 at 09:21 PM



“ 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.

March Funeral Homes - February 20 at 02:36 PM