



Howard Harold Cradle Sr.

January 25, 1956 - May 20, 2021

HOWARD "SMILEY" HAROLD CRADLE SR. was born January 25, 1956 in Ft. Benning, Georgia to the late Kidd and Carmella Cradle. He departed this life on Thursday, May 20, 2021 after a lengthy illness.

Smiley received his high school education from Southern High School in 1975. Upon the completion of his studies, he embarked on a career in the United States Army in 1976 and was assigned to Fort Bragg 36th C Sigma Communication Battalion. Smiley showed his artistic abilities by creating logos for his battalion and creating artworks for his fellow soldiers. While stationed at Fort Bragg, he met the love of his life Tonida McLeod in 1982, and they married in 1984. Through their union they had one son Howard Jr. Once Smiley left the military, he sought employment with Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, North Carolina as a custodian until he relocated back to Baltimore, Maryland. Smiley's number one joy in life was his artwork, especially painting. He used his creative eye to beautify the school grounds with his artwork. Students, teachers and faculty all loved him and his creativity.

Smiley's favorite hobbies were drawing and painting. He was recognized by President Clinton in 1996 for receiving a personalized portrait that was crafted by his gifted hands. Mr. Cradle painted special pictures of Buffalo soldiers that were displayed and sold at the PX at Ft. Bragg, NC. He was also gifted in using his hands to carve wood into masterpieces, create backdrop scenes for

pageants and phenomenal 3-dimensional bulletin boards.

Smiley's memory will be forever carried in the hearts of: his wife (Tonida); son (Howard Jr.); daughter-in-law (Dainnese); brothers (Charles, Purnell and Marlon); sisters Diane and Inez preceded him in death; aunts, May and Roe (St. Louis, MO), Vivian (Baltimore); and uncle, Raymond (St. Louis). He also leaves one special granddaughter, (Donita); brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Previous Events

Wake

JUN 3. 11:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Memorial Service

JUN 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ To view the service of Mr. Cradle please click the link that says ViewWebcast.



March Funeral Homes - June 03, 2021 at 12:13 PM



“ *Howard Harold Cradle Sr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *"Smiley" gave me one of his oil paintings of my mom (his mother-in-law) that I will always cherish. To the Cradle family, our spirits may be low as we grieve the loss of our beloved "Smiley", but celebrate his life and look to God for closure. May my brother-in-law R.I.P.,*

David McLeod - brother-in-law - June 02, 2021 at 04:18 PM

HC

“ Dad would sing this song quite a bit, he finally cleaned up what he messed up. Just starting his life over again!!!!



HOWARD HAROLD CRADLE - June 01, 2021 at 11:25 PM

HC

“ 6 files added to the album Fond Memories



Howard Cradle - June 01, 2021 at 10:35 PM

HC

“ Wish you would of had more time to see your granddaughter grow. You will live on in her and my memory one day I will tell you all about it when I see you again. Farewell Pop



Howard Cradle - June 01, 2021 at 10:29 PM

JJ

“ Gonna miss you Cuzzo! Farwell until we meet again!!!!!!



James W McRae Jr - June 01, 2021 at 06:21 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 - May 31, 2021 at 02:27 PM