



## James Edward Smoot, Jr.

June 21, 1954 - August 7, 2019

On June 2, 1952, a bright-eyed bundle of joy, weighing 7 lbs. 2oz. was born to James E. Smoot, Sr. and Margorie Gordon. The young family moved to Hampton, VA, where his father served in the United States Air Force. Duty called the family to relocate to Washington, DC, where Lil' Jim attended Birney Elementary School. He was active in the Cub Scouts during his early years. Lil' Jim played outside so much that his curly locks often turned a shade of red.

Life's journey returned the family to "Uptown" Richmond, where he made lifelong friends at Carver Elementary School. By the time he attended Benjamin Graves Jr. High School, he became known as "Jim". He loved Shop class, where he made things with his hands. Due to his love of the outdoors, he became a swimmer and eventually a lifeguard at Hartshorn Pool. While attending Maggie L. Walker High School, he became known as "Smoot". At Walker, he transitioned from the neighborhood football team to signature roles on the Mighty Green Dragons' offensive and defensive squads. Football became Smoot's world, landing him in the Richmond Afro and the Richmond News Leader newspapers. He worked at Philip Morris for several years before suffering a back injury, which left him unable to work.

Smoot was predeceased by his father, James E. Smoot, Sr. and his stepfather Donald G. Graves. He is survived by one daughter Shantese Smithers-

Alexander (Richard); one granddaughter Shaia Alexander; mother, Margorie Gordon Graves; one uncle, William "Preacher" Gordon (Angela); one aunt, Waddell Smoot Venable; two sister, Iris Smoot Ellis and Nicole Smoot-Miller (Dayton, OH) and one brother, Michael Smoot (Dayton, OH). He also leaves to cherish his memory, three nieces, three nephews, one great-nephew, and a host of cousins and devoted friends, among them, Emmett, Herm, Dorman, Mike, and Tony.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

4000 Pilots Lane  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG 11. 1:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Celebration of Life

AUG 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Edward Smoot, Jr.*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 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** - August 11, 2019 at 05:48 PM