



Josephine E Smith

February 19, 1939 - June 10, 2025

Josephine Emily Smith, was born Sunday, February 19, 1939 to the late William H. Price, Sr, and Mary E. Price in Baltimore, Maryland. Josephine transitioned from her earthly home on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 11:09 A.M. with her loving husband and daughter by her side.

Josephine was the youngest girl of five children, Mildred, Shirley, Frank and William. Josephine, was a Daddy's Girl. At a young age she loved music. Her parents enrolled her in piano lessons, where she excelled. She taught Sunday school and played piano for church. She giggled when telling a story about when her younger brother, William, BKA Buster, got her in trouble. He talked her into jazzing up church songs to play for the pastor's visit. Her mother was so angry. She asked her why would she listen to Buster. Josephine attended Fountain Baptist Church. She accepted Jesus Christ at an early age.

Josephine spent summers months in North Carolina on Aunt Laura's farm, where there were many farm animals, including a spotted hog. She and Buster also spent time at their grandfather's house. At mealtime, grandfather would say grace. By the time he finished, they had already finished eating.

Josephine attended the Baltimore City Public School System. She was the First Black female to attend Eastern High School. She graduated in June 1957. There's an article about her at the Maryland Historical Society.

Josephine was married in 1958 to the late Jesse Rogers McCaskill, and from this union were two daughters, Gwendolyn and the late Leondrae. She worked two to three jobs to support her family. In October of 1965, she married, The Love of Her Life, John J. Smith, Sr. and from this union one son was born, John, Jr. She and John were married 60 years and were inseparable. They enjoyed traveling, going on cruises together and talking about the politics.

Josephine worked many places during her career. Westinghouse, Johns Hopkins Hospital Pediatric Radiology, Department of Social Services, C&O B&O Railway/Chessie System, the American Association of Railroads and RAILINC. RAILINC moved to North Carolina. Josephine went with them. John Jr. went with her. Tayvon soon followed. She travelled for her job, going to railroad conventions. In a short time, she was promoted to director of Customer Support. She loved her job and loved living in North Carolina. She had to retire to take care of her mother.

Josephine enjoyed walking from downtown to home, going to museums, musicals, dinner theatres and jazz shows. She was a fan of Patti LaBelle. She loved family outings. She was humorous and loved to laugh. She often laughed at those who fell asleep after Sunday dinner. She'd take pictures and threaten to put it on Facebook.

Josephine loved her family, spending time talking to her son every day at 6:20 AM. They spent time together laughing, going on two-mile walks and talking the whole time. She also adored her bonus son, Richard, and his corny jokes. She was always saying, "Nobody better not mess with my Richard. That's my Richard!" She also loved hanging out with the young people in the family and supporting them in every area of their lives. She considered all of them her bonus grandchildren. adored her grandsons. Kaleb, who she affectionately

called her “Body Guard,” she admired how smart he was. Tayvon, was her “financial adviser.” She enjoyed talking about the stock market, houses, and interest rates.

Josephine had a beautiful spirit, calm demeanor, and soft-spoken nature. Her kindness, and willingness to help and support others was evident. She always had time to listen and offered a story or two full of words of wisdom. She was affectionately known by many names—Aunt Em, Aunt Jo, Honey, Nana, Mumsy, Mom, and Punky—she held a special place in the hearts of her family and friends. Those who know her will never forget her nurturing spirit and unwavering love.

Josephine was preceded in death by her daughter; Leondrae Elayne Cooper, two sisters and brothers-in-laws; Mildred Parham (Robert), Shirley Powell (Clarence), and two brothers, Frank Price, and William Price.

Josephine’s family and friends will forever cherish her memory, and the love she shared throughout her life. To honor her memory: her loving and devoted husband, John Smith, Sr.; one daughter, Gwendolyn Simmons (Richard); one son, John Smith, Jr.; two grandchildren, Tayvon Smith and Kaleb Smith; two sisters-in-law, Lois Price and Jamelah Qadir; one brother-in-law, Lindsay Addison (Yvette); bonus sisters, Evelyn Wills, Earline Phipps, Pam Becker, Brenda Pinnick and Barbara Cooper, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUN 28. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Wake

JUN 30. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

JUN 30. 11:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Josephine E Smith*



March Funeral Homes - June 23, 2025 at 08:48 AM

DM

“ *To my Dear Aunt Josephine. You were always my 2nd Mom. Always there no matter what. When I had my daughter you instantly stepped in as Grandmother. With my Mom being ill and then passing. Your role and Bond was even stronger. You would call my daughter your Punkie before she could walk and talk and we visited often almost everyday but Fridays was especially for you two. I will never forget that one Friday when this happy go lucky little 2 year old went to your door and you opened for her to walk right in and say "Hi Punkie!!" And you laughed so hard you almost cried. You were affectionately known as her Punkie ever since. No one could ask for a better Grandmother and Mom. We miss you more than words and will forever be missing a piece of our hearts. Rest well Punkie there will never be another like you. 💔*

Danielle Myles - July 20, 2025 at 01:27 AM



That is beautiful, Danni 🥹

Gwen Simmons - July 20, 2025 at 03:06 AM

“Just to make you smile.

For the last 15 years every Friday night at 9:00, Josephine and I would talk on the phone. “Tell me something good,” she would say, and I would always tell her about my horse. “What’s wrong?” she would ask. “I know something’s troubling you.” And she knew. She knew before I knew. She would sometimes open the conversation asking about one of my sisters. “She’s been on my mind,” and I had been worrying about that sister. She knew. She confided in me and I in her. We had tough conversations, and I told her of things I had done, things that shamed me. “That’s nothing!” she would brag, and tell me a story of her own. She would threaten to come to North Carolina to cut someone, anyone, who had hurt my feelings. She was gansta like that. She was from Baltimore.

At the end of a heavy conversation, she would say, “Just to make you smile,” and tell me something uplifting (such as her bodyguard Kaleb or Currelle’s secret code word telling her she needed to talk with her in private). It was always sweet and kind and funny. We left our conversations laughing.

Just to make you laugh.

Josephine and I had many laughs together. From the first time I put signs in her yard, telling neighbors to honk because it was her birthday to her decorating my yard in dollar store Easter ornamentations, we would laugh. She would call me up and fake yell at me (in her soft stern voice) and we would laugh. Once, in the early days, about 20 years ago, I persuaded my daughter and her boyfriend to dress up, and knock on her door, trying to convert her to Mormonism. When the ruse was discovered, she screamed, “BECKER! Get in here!” And we laughed.

One Sunday evening she called and wanted Kim and me to come over. I said we weren’t decent. “Come as you are!” she said. And we did, in our pajamas. She laughed and laughed and laughed.

On Sundays Josephine and I would dress ourselves up and go to the fancy people’s open houses, you know, the million dollar ones. We pretended we were going to buy one, maybe as a summer home. We looked through the rooms, critiquing everything and

giggling. Then we'd go out for ice cream.

I love you more.

Josephine gave me my first job in North Carolina. She refused to be my friend while she was my boss. It wasn't healthy for a work environment. So I had to wait until she retired. I poured out my heart to her when I was at my lowest and she gave me good advice, and cried, too. I told her I loved her. She said she loved me, too. "But, I love you more." And we laughed. And it became a game. At the end of every phone conversation, I would say, "Just remember, I love you more!" She would shout, "NEVER!" and slam down the phone. We both laughed. That is what I miss the most.... "Josephine, I love you more."

Pamela Becker - July 03, 2025 at 12:51 PM



Beautiful! I love this, Auntie Pam!

Gwen Simmons - July 20, 2025 at 03:07 AM

AW

“*Alice L. Wilhoit lit a candle in memory of Josephine E Smith*”



Alice L. Wilhoit - July 01, 2025 at 11:53 PM



“ To the family, loved ones, and friends of the late Mrs. Josephine E. Smith,

We extend our heartfelt love, thoughts, and prayers to each of you during this time of sorrow.

To Tayvon and Mr. Smith—please know that you are especially in our hearts. We love you, we bless you, and we deeply appreciate you. May you find strength and peace in the days ahead.

*With love,
Christopher, Carolyn, Alexander, and Amelia Young
Douglasville, Georgia*

Christopher Young - June 30, 2025 at 02:54 PM



*Thank you so much.
Love,
Gwen Simmons, her daughter and Tay's aunt.*

Gwen Simmons - July 05, 2025 at 01:14 PM

FF

“ From Your SAES Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Josephine E Smith.



From Your SAES Family - June 28, 2025 at 01:14 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine E Smith.*



June 28, 2025 at 05:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Josephine E Smith.

June 28, 2025 at 05:43 AM



“ *Elaine and family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Josephine E Smith.*



Elaine and family - June 26, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ *Alice B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine E Smith.*

Alice B. - June 22, 2025 at 10:19 AM



“ *The Conyers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine E Smith.*

The Conyers - June 20, 2025 at 11:11 AM

TC

“ The Conyers purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Josephine E Smith.



The Conyers - June 20, 2025 at 11:11 AM

SD

“ Stephanie Taborn & Michael Dixon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine E Smith.

Stephanie Taborn & Michael Dixon - June 18, 2025 at 01:55 PM

SD

“ Stephanie Taborn & Michael Dixon purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Josephine E Smith.



Stephanie Taborn & Michael Dixon - June 18, 2025 at 01:55 PM

LF

“ Lily Alston and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine E Smith.

Lily Alston and family - June 14, 2025 at 08:50 AM

LF

“ Lily Alston and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Josephine E Smith.



Lily Alston and family - June 14, 2025 at 08:50 AM

CS

“ Candace & Stephen Seidl planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine E Smith.

Candace & Stephen Seidl - June 14, 2025 at 06:52 AM

CS

“ Candace & Stephen Seidl purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Josephine E Smith.



Candace & Stephen Seidl - June 14, 2025 at 06:52 AM

DO

“ Praying God's love and comfort. May God continue to give you his peace.

Dorothy and James Oliver - June 13, 2025 at 02:35 PM

SK

“ *Sherian Kelly lit a candle in memory of Josephine E Smith*



Sherian Kelly - June 13, 2025 at 01:31 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 - June 13, 2025 at 01:13 PM