



Thomas Harry Smith, Sr.

April 13, 1932 - August 5, 2019

Our beloved Thomas Harry Smith, Sr. was born April 13, 1932 to the late James and Bertha Jones in Hanover County, Virginia. He was the eldest of 13 children and helped raise some of his younger siblings. He departed from this life August 5, 2019, at the well lived age of 87. He was preceded in death by three brothers James, Lawrence, and Christopher Jones; and two sisters Lenora Cooper and Eugertha Lewis.

He was baptized at an early age at Brown Grove Baptist Church, Ashland, Virginia. He attended Hanover County Public Schools where he had plans to receive his high school diploma; however, prior to graduation he was drafted into the United States Army in 1952, where he served in the Korean War. Thomas served his country as a Communication Specialist, spending most of his time in Germany where he was in the process of receiving a promotion, but due to health reasons, he received an honorable discharge. As most black military men, he faced challenges securing a career in the field he received his specialized training. He persevered and began his managerial career, which allowed him to be a provider for his family.

He met the love of his life, Olliemae Cooper, while in high school and they married in 1954. Born from their union were three amazing children, whom he found great joy. He loved chauffeuring them to all of their extracurricular activities, along with other neighborhood children. You could find his black

1955 Chevrolet pickup loaded down with children any day of the week.

He loved a good game of Bid Whiz and considered himself “The King.” Many have left the card table defeated and down-right disgusted. His favorite saying to entice his potential opponent was “If you scared, say you scared.” He didn’t mind taking your money either. He even won a car playing another one of his favorite games, poker. His preferred partner and/or opponent was his “favorite son-in-law,” Freddie. You could often find them playing two handed bid whiz together any weekend. Fishing was another one of his past times, but watching the Washington Redskins and Atlanta Braves was his favorite.

He was a quiet man with a dry sense of humor, but when he spoke, you listened. He was a mentor to the young men in his family and community. He taught them the importance of having a good work ethic.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Olliemae Smith; daughter, Synator Johnson (Freddie Jr.); sons, Thomas Smith Jr. and Grayland Smith, Sr. (Pat); grandchildren, Lindsey Lindsay, Pierce Johnson, Briana Smith, Grayland Smith Jr., Nikeya Holland (Troy), Freddie Johnson, III (Kelli), Maurice (Amanda), and AlKaya Smith; great-grandchild, Ethan Anthony McElroy; siblings, Martha King Anderson, Jean Jackson (Robert), Jonetta Williams, Adolph Jones (Annie), Oscar Jones (Helen), Vanessa Lee, and Sandra Jones; and a host of many nieces and nephews.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

Cemetery Details

Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia

10300 Pridesville Road
Amelia, VA 23002

Previous Events

viewing

AUG 9. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Family Hour

AUG 9. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

AUG 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Bridge Baptist Church
5807 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA 23223

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Harry Smith, Sr.*

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.*

March Funeral Homes - August 09, 2019 at 03:05 PM