



Joseph Eddie Smith Jr.

November 4, 1947 - April 3, 2013

SMITH, Mr. Joseph Eddie Jr. - age 65, passed away, Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at Henry Ford Hospital Detroit. Family hour 10:30AM Friday, April 12, 2013 from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., with funeral service commencing immediately at 11:00AM. Pastor Akinyemi Brown, officiating. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 N. Belford Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the funeral home 10:30AM Friday. Mr. Smith, Jr. will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, and may be viewed from 2PM-8PM Thursday.

Joseph Eddie Smith was born on November 4, 1947, to Joe and Lessie (O'Guinn) Smith in Mt. Holly, a small town in Columbia County, Arkansas. His parents move to Michigan when he was a small child where his father later died. He grew up in Pontiac, Michigan, loving fine clothes, Derby hats and jazz, particularly jazz piano... which he played with a true gift. Being the man of the house Joe grew up very protective of his mother. He worried about her and who would take care of her after he was inducted into the military during the Vietnam War. After his discharge he returned home to his mother and the love of his life Miss Jessie Mae Brown (she preceded him in death in 1992). She and their son Eric were all that he could talk about with anyone who was willing to listen! Eric and his family have remained the greatest source of pride and joy in Joe's life. Joe moved with his mother back to the South and to her family in the 1980's and after her subsequent death, he continued to live there

with his uncle, Prentice and Aunt Exile Lee O'Guinn (now both deceased) and became as one of their own. To his cousins Wanda, Patsy, and Debra and their brother Prentice Jr. who died in 1993, Joe was more like a brother than a cousin. In this family, the greatest gift was simply being together and that togetherness was celebrated in a home filled with music, laughter and song! Joe returned to Michigan but through the years he watched all of the children grow and proudly shared in any accomplishments, victories or heartbreaks. His visits home, though not frequent, were times when family gathered again to reminisce around the piano, Joe smiling as he shared the piano bench with the next generation of musicians in the family. His absence will be felt for many many years to come. Joe Smith was the epitome of suave...always dressing "sharp", often styling his trademark derby hats or small brimmed fedoras, broken down "just so" over one eye. He made friends wherever he went, largely due to his fun loving and easy going style. He was a wonderful listener who always made whoever he was talking to feel special and validated... even if that person was a child. Joe loved good food for which he never failed to praise the cook (usually Wanda) with a hearty "Deeelicious", good company, good times, and family. His family were his friends and his friends were family to him. Joe enjoyed true friendships that have withstood the tests of time and distance. The family acknowledges among his most cherished friends James and Joe Modica who always made his trips home to the South complete. Joe Eddie Smith was a good man...a loving and kind man...an obedient son, a true friend, a doting father and grandfather, a supportive "brother".

Cherishing each precious memory are family and friends too numerous to list; among whom are foremost his son, Eric (Chandra) Brown; four grandsons, Eric S. Brown, Jestin P. Brown, Jamal K. Brown, Jarvis B. Brown of Atlanta, GA, his four first cousins: Wanda Leichmon, and Debra Elerson, of El Dorado, AR, Patsy Jones of Flint, MI, and Inez Williams of Oakland, CA; and a host of other relatives and friends including: Pastor Akimyemi (Vickie) Brown, NKenge (Patrick) Lillard, Zakiyyah (Mike) Bennett and Ella Riley.

The family would like to express special thanks to Delores Kimble for your loving kindness towards Joe while he was here with us. We appreciate you very much.

We rejoice in the knowledge that this is not goodbye but only "Farewell."

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac
268 North Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Service

APR 12. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Dear Smith Family and Friends,
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear loved one. I too have lost several loved ones in death, and the pain is fresh even with the passage of time. Thankfully, I have found relief in knowing that "The Most High God" is the "Hearer of Prayer", and a source of tremendous comfort in times of grief and distress.
(Psalms83:18,Psalms65:2) Please be assured , death will soon be "swallowed up forever" and we will have the opportunity to see our dead loved ones again.(Isaiah 25:8) My family and I wish you and yours peace.(Phillipians4:7)

Lisa - April 08, 2013 at 12:15 PM