



Virg "School Boy" Smith

April 13, 1928 - December 27, 2023

SMITH, Mr. Virg "School Boy" - age 95, passed away, Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Oakland. Family hour 10:30 AM Saturday, January 6, 2024 at New Springfield Missionary Baptist Church, 124 Prospect St., with Funeral Service commencing immediately at 11:00AM. Pastor William Parker, Jr. Officiating. Interment Perry Mount Park Cemetery, 878 North Perry Street. Friends and pallbearers will assemble 10:30AM at the church Saturday. "School Boy" will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 North Perry Street, and may be viewed Noon - 6:00PM The family will be present to receive friends from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Friday at the funeral home.

Virg "Schoolboy" Smith, was born on April 13, 1928, in Yazoo City, Mississippi, to sharecropper parents, Elizabeth Street and Prince Smith. Yazoo City was a small and mostly Black town run by whites. Having grown up in a time and place where racial inequality was the norm, Virg had the importance of church instilled in him early. He'd say that no matter his family's misfortune, or social standing, when they had nothing, they knew they had the church.

In 1946, he made the courageous decision to leave Yazoo City to join his brother, Solomon Chatman, in Pontiac, Michigan, seeking employment with General Motors. After working for two years at GM, Virg was drafted to serve a two-year stint in the Army. He served with the 41st Signal Corps, an all-black

battalion, which, for a time, took him to Alabama and Texas.

Though he was glad to have his GM job waiting when he returned home, Virg's military experience taught him the importance of having something of his own.

While working for GM, he took side jobs that included cleaning homes for wealthy people. It was there that he was encouraged by a Jewish woman in Bloomfield Hills, MI, to launch a janitorial service. The woman's husband was a builder who gave him his first cleaning contract. Virg said this venture taught him that God's favor transcends religion and race.

His janitorial service was created so that he could have something of his own, but it became a gateway for the 15 employees he hired to support their families. It would seem he'd done a lot by this point in his life, but it was just his beginning. He was 27.

With dedication and hard work, Virg spent more than two decades at General Motors before retiring in 1968.

In the early 50s, he began his journey into parenthood after meeting Bessie McKinney. They welcomed a daughter, Tanya McKinney, in 1950.

His life evolved through marriage to Martha Lee Sain and eight children were born to them: Michael, Gary, Jovita, Stephannie, Marsha, Keith, Allison, and Dale, before pursuing separate journeys.

Virg instilled a strong work ethic in his kids and the next generation, leaving a lasting legacy as many of them now embrace well-earned retirements and new business ventures.

After joining New Springfield Missionary Baptist Church almost 25 years ago, he often expressed deep gratitude for the guidance, encouragement, and favor he received - most especially from Pastor Minor and Rev. William Parker, Jr., and close friends Frank Grayer, and Constance 'Connie' Simmons. When he was 91, he shared that just as he did as a young boy in Yazoo City, when times got hard, he knew that he could always go to the church, because the church had never left him. For him, it was home.

Virg leaves to cherish his memory: Children: Tanya McKinney-Hardiman, Michael (Terra) Smith, Gary (Sonya) Smith, Jovita Smith, Stephannie Smith, Marsha (Donald) McConner, Keith (Ira) Smith, and Allison (Eric) Hanley; Grandchildren: Yahel Dawson, Kahilla McKinney-Stewart, Miaisha Guy, Michael Smith, Jr., Emma Littleton, Darneshia Smith, Jessica (Charles) Pernermon, Paul 'Antonio' Martin, Ashley Turner, Isaac Smith, Anthony (Gloria) Smith, Demond (Quenyada) Smith, Latoya Smith, Ashley Meckens, RoNeisha Mullen, RoShaun Smith, Keith Manley, Kourtney Manley, Jerel Smith, Montrel Smith, LaKita Smith, Pierre Taylor, Eric Hanley, II., Erica Hanley, Terrell Hanley, Doerrell Hanley and a host of great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Virg was preceded in death by his son Dale Smith; parents Elizabeth Stuckey-Street and Prince Smith; siblings, Solomon Chatman, Edward Greer, Grant Smith, Erma Kitchen, and Lee Smith.

At the age of 95, he has left an unforgettable mark on our hearts and a legacy of resilience, faith, and community. As we mourn his passing, let us remember and celebrate a life well-lived, marked by unwavering determination, and an unceasing commitment to family.

Cemetery Details

Perry Mount Park Cemetery

878 N. Perry St.
Pontiac, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 12:00 PM - 6:00 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>

Family Hour

JAN 6. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

NEW SPRINGFIELD MBC
124 PROSPECT STREET
PONTIAC, MI

Funeral Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

NEW SPRINGFIELD MBC
124 PROSPECT STREET
PONTIAC, MI

Tribute Wall

LW

“ *Laurit Washington lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Laurit Washington - March 12, 2024 at 08:55 PM

RS

“ *Rev. Tony & Sylvia Simpson lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Rev. Tony & Sylvia Simpson - January 08, 2024 at 08:53 AM

JF

“ *School Boy and my Father was good friends. The use to Play cards together at the Big 6 . School Boy, you will be truly missed. Rest in peace, brother.*



Jerry Fletcher - January 07, 2024 at 09:16 PM

ID

“ *Ireshia Daniel sent a virtual gift in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Ireshia Daniel - January 07, 2024 at 01:59 PM

TJ

“ Teresa Johnson lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith



Teresa Johnson - January 06, 2024 at 04:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Virg "School Boy" Smith.



January 05, 2024 at 04:35 PM

HB

“ Helen Butler lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith



Helen Butler - January 05, 2024 at 01:45 PM

RF

“ RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER FAMILY sent a virtual gift in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith



RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER FAMILY - January 05, 2024 at 11:26 AM

RK

“ So sorry for your lost your dad was my friend and he loved all of you so very much he will truly be missed love you guys Roz



Rosalyn kincade - January 04, 2024 at 01:33 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Virg "School Boy" Smith.



January 03, 2024 at 07:19 PM

FF

“ From the Millery family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virg "School Boy" Smith.

From the Millery family - January 03, 2024 at 11:00 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Virg "School Boy" Smith.



January 03, 2024 at 11:00 AM

AA

“ Arletta Allen sent a virtual gift in memory of Virg
"School Boy" Smith



Arletta Allen - January 03, 2024 at 10:40 AM

AA

Memories of days gone by. A dear family friend was S.B. For over 50 yrs +.

🙏❤️ S.B. will always be remembered as well Loved by so many others. I love you all ❤️🙏

Arletta Allen - January 06, 2024 at 09:19 AM

DC

Dearest cousin and friend I will forever remember you and that smile that would light up any room and warm a many hearts. Rest well. Send my condolence and love family. Doris Ann Cole-Scruggs

Doris Cole-Scruggs - January 06, 2024 at 02:43 PM

JF

“ Jacobs Family sent a virtual gift in memory of
Virg "School Boy" Smith



Jacobs Family - January 03, 2024 at 10:25 AM



“ 20 files added to the album Virg "Schoolboy" Smith



Toya S - January 02, 2024 at 03:54 PM



“ *Miracle Abrams lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Miracle Abrams - January 02, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ *Edna Bass lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Edna Bass - January 02, 2024 at 01:00 AM

TF

“ The Chism Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Virg "School Boy" Smith.



The Chism Family - January 01, 2024 at 03:54 PM

JS

“ Janice Stewart lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith



Janice Stewart - December 31, 2023 at 07:31 PM

DB

“ Donzell Butler lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith



donzell butler - December 31, 2023 at 05:09 PM

DB

rest in peace schoolie

donzell butler - December 31, 2023 at 05:06 PM

AA

I'd like to send my Deepest and most Sincere Condolences to the Family. I've known Schoolboy my entire life as well He and Fam were our (Late Husband) and I first neighbors as we ventured our into the adult world 🙏❤️ SB, always the same loving and kind family friend. Fam you have my deepest and most Sincere Condolences 🙏❤️ Let Schoolboy Rest Forever in Heavenly Peace, Love Arletta Allen-Dilworth

Arletta Allen - January 03, 2024 at 10:33 AM

BF

“ *Brenda White And White Family lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Brenda White and white family - December 31, 2023 at 04:38 PM

BR

“ *Beverly Rollins lit a candle in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Beverly Rollins - December 30, 2023 at 04:44 PM

AW

“ *Alvina Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Virg "School Boy" Smith*



Alvina Williams - December 30, 2023 at 03:06 PM

MS

“ Sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. Sending you my condolences to you and your family 🙏🙏🙏

Mary Sain - December 30, 2023 at 03:05 PM

LC

I want to convey my deepest condolence on the passing of your family patriarch, Virg "School Boy" Smith. He was someone that I true appreciated and looked up to as a male role model. May you all find comfort in the memories, and knowing that, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Leonard Cole

Leonard Cole - January 05, 2024 at 02:54 PM

RF

“ My condolences to the Smith family Rest In Heaven Mr Virg school boy Smith



Ronald Ferrell - December 30, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Virg "School Boy" Smith.



December 30, 2023 at 10:46 AM

RF

“ *My condolences to the family and friends Rest in Heaven Mr Verg School Boy Smith*



Ronald Ferrell - December 30, 2023 at 09:56 AM

RD

“ *Sending our Prayers and Condolences to the Smith Family.* 🙏🙏

From the Dawson Family

Ronda Dawson - December 29, 2023 at 09:19 PM

RB

My condolences to the Smith family your in my prayers

Rutha Bland - December 30, 2023 at 09:06 AM