

Homegoing Service
Celebrating the Life of



James Smith

Sunrise
March 22, 1925

"Zimp"

Sunset
July 6, 2014

Tuesday, July 15, 2014 - 12:00 Noon

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
472 – 476 Bergen Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey

Rev. Alonzo Perry, Sr., Pastor

Life Reflections

James Smith was born on March 22, 1925 in Lyons, Georgia, the 16th and final child of Isabella Edinfield Smith and Willis Smith. His family would later relocate to Jersey City, New Jersey.

He was the first in his family to graduate from high school, spending two years at Ferris High School and graduating from Dickinson High School both in Jersey City.

James was accepted into the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen Program at the University of Tuskegee in Tuskegee, Alabama. Upon completion of the program, he entered World War II. He served his country as a pilot and fought in the Philippines in the Air Corp until the end of the war.

On June 20, 1956, James was joined in holy matrimony to the love of his life, the former Constance Johnson in Bayonne, New Jersey and this union was blessed with a son, Garrett and a daughter, Dolores. They would move to Orange, New Jersey where they raised their family. He also lived in Sayerville, New Jersey before moving to Roselle, New Jersey in 1983.

“Zimp”, as he was affectionately known, was one of the first successful African-American business owners in Jersey City. He began as a trucking owner/operator and worked on the initial building of the New Jersey Turnpike. He owned a pool hall, several taverns and a very popular nightclub in Hoboken called The Zanzibar which hosted many popular acts.

He was the first and only African-American business owner to own and operate his own franchise. During the years 1955-1995, there were approximately 20 businesses operated and owned under the Zimps franchise. Zimps was best known for its fried chicken, fish sandwiches and macaroni and cheese. Before other franchises like McDonald’s, Burger King and Kentucky Fried Chicken, there was Zimps.


The Municipal Council of Jersey City acknowledged his influence, entrepreneurial skills, and his outstanding contributions to the City of Jersey City by dedicating that the Southeast corner of Dwight Street and Ocean Avenue, where his most popular Zimps Restaurant was located, would also be known as **James “Zimp” Smith Way**.

He was a former member of Central Baptist Church in Jersey City.

James Smith departed this life on July 6, 2014 at Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey at the age of 89. He was predeceased by his parents, Isabella and Willis Smith; brothers, Moses, Thomas, Kalip, Aaron, Joshua, Amos, Sidney, Foy and Mel and sisters, Esther, Willie, Jane, Marietta, Ola and Mary.

He leaves to cherish fond memories, his beloved wife, Constance Johnson Smith; a son, Garrett Smith of Roselle, NJ; a daughter, Dolores Smith (Alvin) of London, UK; 3 grandchildren, Travis Amaker of Jersey City, NJ, Taylor Smith and Tara Smith both of London, UK; 1 great grandchild, Xaire; 2 sisters-in-law, Mary Gilbert of Huntsville, Alabama and Chris Gayle of Bayonne, NJ and a host of other relatives and friends.

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family



Order Of Service

ProcessionalClergy and Deacons

Old Testament Scripture - Psalm 121

New Testament Scripture - Colossians 3:12-17

Prayer of ComfortRev. Alonzo Perry, Sr.

SongNieces and Nephews of James Smith

ReflectionsSen. Sandra Cunningham
Dr. Charles Epps
Rev. Sluggo the Street Preacher
Selected Family Members

Song.....Nieces and Nephews of James Smith

Cards, Condolences, ProclamationsSelected Friends

SoloistBarbara Sharp

Eulogy.....Rev. Alonzo Perry, Sr.

RecessionalClergy, Deacons, Deceased, Family

*You are all welcome to join the family for a fellowship meal at:
Mary McLeod Bethune Life Center 140 MLK Jr. Drive – Jersey
City, NJ immediately following the service.*

Interment

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 – 12:30 pm

Brig. Gen William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Wrightstown, New Jersey

Services Entrusted To:

G.G. Woody Funeral Home, LLC

206 East Eighth Avenue • Roselle, NJ 07203

www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com

“Where Our Sympathy Expresses Itself Through Sincere Service”



Pall Bearers
Family and Friends of **James Smith**

Acknowledgement

The family of **James Smith** acknowledges with sincere appreciation every thought and act of kindness expressed to us during this our hour of bereavement. We will always keep you in our prayers. May God continue to richly bless you.

