

A Celebration of Life



Charles Smith

Sunrise

July 28, 1945

Sunset

September 23, 2014

Service

Wednesday, October 1, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

*Bishop William E. Sutton, Officiating
Zion Hill Pentecostal Church*

Obituary

Charles Smith, Jr. (lovingly known as **Skeeter or Smitty**) was born on July 28, 1945 in Ft. Pierce, Florida. He was the only child of Mary McCray and Charles Smith (Sr.); from birth they loved and nurtured him. These early years were the foundation for the loving, kind, supportive and jovial man he would become. It was rare that you would see Charles when he did not have a smile on his face or a funny story or joke to tell. He was always trying to make someone else smile. He brought “Joy” to those he met.

As a young boy, Charles attended elementary school in Ft. Pierce, Florida. After his mother (family) relocated to Harlem, New York, Charles attended and graduated from Wadleigh Junior High School. As an adult, he returned to school to complete his High School coursework. He attended Touro College and was awarded a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Then after, he went on to pursue his Associates degree in Psychology.

As a young man, Charles joined the Army and served his country. He served in the Vietnam War. He received an Honorable Discharge from the Army in 1968. He was a member of the Freemasons and had the 33rd and last degree.

Charles was a father and grandfather however, he was also a “Father Figure” to countless children in the Harlem Community through his work in the seventies as a member of Community School Board Five. His active advocacy on behalf of the children and families of the Harlem community is noteworthy! He also worked as a School Safety Officer in District Three and District Five and worked as a Security Officer at Securitas. He served on the Harlem Hospital Board and district Five School Boards.

Charles always exhibited a “Gift of Gab”! He met no strangers for long. He made people feel comfortable and at ease, readily engaging anyone in conversations that might include, the latest fashions, sports, politics, education or social activism. The latter being his favorite topic of discussion. He devoted a large part of his life to working (in his own way) to enrich the social, educational, political and cultural components of Harlem. The pinnacle of this love for Harlem was the years he spent working at “The World Famous Apollo Theater!” Charles was employed as a member of the Security Team. As a result of his “Quick Wit, Engaging Personality and Articulate Nature”, he interacted and conversed with an array of Politicians, Social Activists as well as International Entertainers. These included Malcolm X, Congressman Charles Rangel, Former Mayor David Dinkins and Former Manhattan Borough President and Chairman of The Apollo Theater, Percy Sutton to name a few. He was in Harlem and Harlem was in him: mind, body and soul! He became actively involved in doing his part to effect “Positive Change” in the Harlem Community. His activities included being an unofficial “Ambassador of Good Will” for the Apollo Theater and the Harlem Community at large. From engaging his beloved fellow Harlemites, visitors to the Apollo or world renowned entertainers- Charles did it all! Harlem mourns one of its sons whose life enriched the fabric of the Harlem mosaic. It is what makes Harlem - “One of a Kind”!

Charles cherished his family, especially his Aunt Ruth Elma. He always took time to travel from New York to Baltimore to visit and worship at her church, Victory Prayer Chapel. This respect and love was also shared with Aunt Elma’s son, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings. However when Charles and Congressman Cummings engaged in their lively discussion, he was Cousin Elijah!

Charles and Dallas June were married on August 23rd in 1995. They became inseparable! Whenever Dallas needed to be chauffeured around Charles put on his hat and his smile and starred in his own version of, “Driving Mrs. Dallas”! They were a beautiful couple and their union personified the love, respect and caring they shared. They attended Zion Hill Church in the Bronx under the spiritual leadership of Bishop Sutton.

Charles Smith enjoyed his “Journey through Life”! Along the way, he indeed, “Let His Little Light Shine” from his tour in The United States Army to his ongoing work at the beloved Apollo Theater and the Harlem Community at large. Charles departed this life on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 8:32 a.m. at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He leaves to celebrate his life and cherish his memory: his beloved wife, Dallas; his devoted children, Charles III, Louise, Diamond, Shea (who preceded him in death) LaShae, LaSchelle, Zaheerah, Geraldine, Isaac, Alda, Jeffrey; and his beloved grandchildren, Derrick, Lashea, Derrick Jr., Charles IV, Lamel, Michael, and Jamar; god-daughters, Sheryll Walker-Bryant, Devoia Stewart; sisters-in-law, Barbara June-Roberts, Juanita June-Roberts, Jonnie Mae June-Sears, and Meldina Payne-June; brothers-in-law, Furman June and Joe N. June; cousins, Ethel Knight, Annie R. Wilson, Charles Russ, Kathryn Smith Christie (Baby Sister), Julius Carlton Smith and David L. Smith; four aunts, Rosa D. Frances, Nancy J. Oliver, Naomi J. Rodman and Dorothy J. Gause; and a longtime family friend, Crystal Kennedy; and a host of other relatives and friends. Special thanks to: Isaac Middleton, special childhood friend, George Davis, and Lauvia Sherman for their support.

Charles will be missed by all his family and friends. However, as we gather today, let us “CELEBRATE” Charles for his LIVING and the work he did during his journey through life to help make Harlem the unique and enriched community of the Past, Present and Future! Rest in Peace Charles! We will all miss you.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

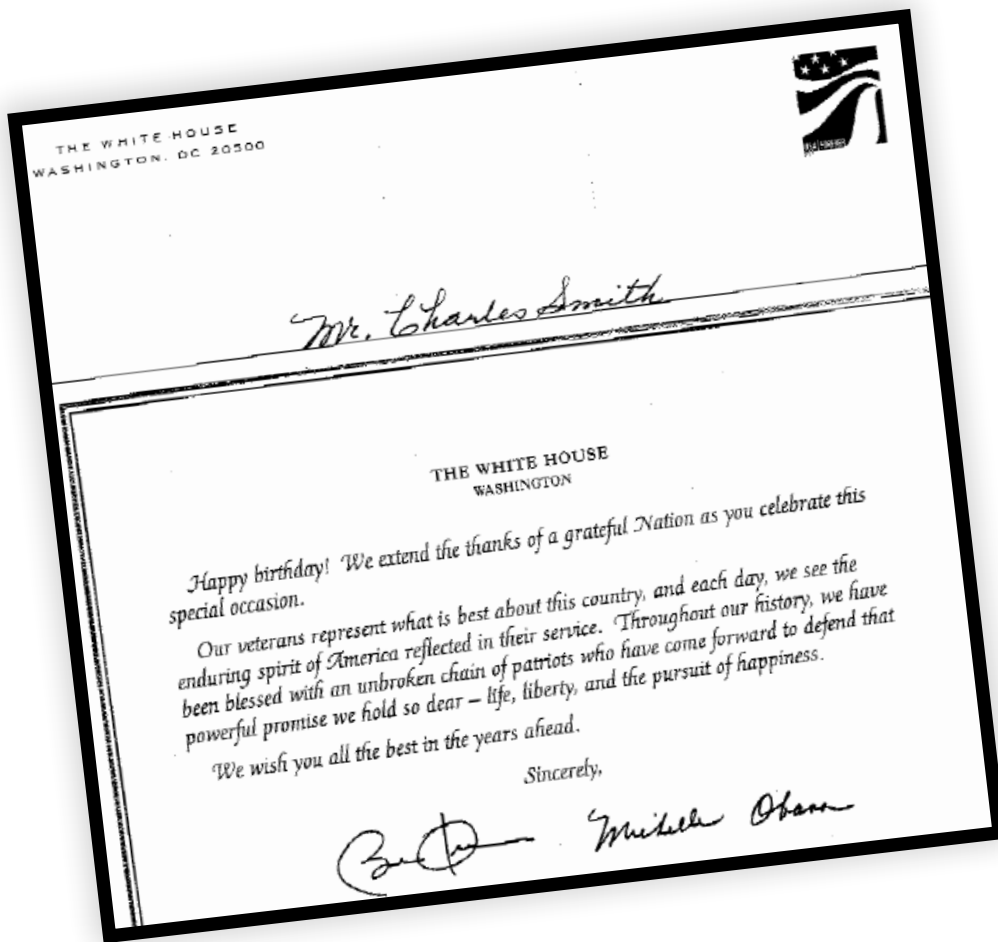
Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional



Interment

Saturday, October 4, 2014
Elizabeth Baptist Church Cemetery
Manning, South Carolina

Togetherness

Death is nothing at all - I have only slipped away into the next room. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be the household word it always was. Let it be spoken without effort. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was: there is absolutely unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well. Nothing is past: nothing is lost. One brief moment and all will be as before — only better, infinitely happier and forever we will all be one together with Christ.

-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*



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