

HOMEGOING
Celebration
FOR



Joseph Earl
SMITH BETHEA JR.

Sunrise: February 8, 1979 - Sunset: March 28, 2026

Thursday, April 9, 2026
11:30 am

Ruth Fellowship Ministries Inc
733 South 2nd Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060
Rev. Tracey L. Brown - Pastor

Order of Services

Viewing

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Ecclesiastics 3:1-8

New Testament: Corinthians 15: 51-57

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Reflections

PoemJourney S. Culver (daughter)

ObituaryCelena Smith (sister)

Selection

Message of Comfort Rev. Tracey L. Brown

Committal

Recessional



Obituary

Joseph Earl Smith Bethea Jr. (Joe Bash) transitioned from this life on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Joseph was born in Plainfield, New Jersey to the late Dorsine Smith and Joseph Earl Bethea Sr.

Joe attended the Plainfield Public Schools. He worked a few jobs. He was the father of two children. His son X'zavayen Davon Wallace predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter Journey ShaRae Culver of New Jersey. To cherish his memory also surviving are his siblings -three brothers George Holloway of North Carolina, Gary Smith and his wife, Crystal of New Jersey, and Derrick Smith and his wife June of North Carolina and his only sister Celena Smith of North Carolina. Joe is also survived by his nieces Sheila, Shanee', C'renity, Amber and Erin. His nephews Andre, Mujeer, Derrick, Da'sahn and Dakeem, four great nieces and two great nephews and his long time, girlfriend, Michelle Bronson.

Joe wasn't perfect, but who is. He loved to smile, laugh and crack jokes. Joe was very aggy. He worked everyone's nerves in a good way. He loved to dance and blast music. He would never hurt anyone but could throw hands if it was necessary. He was always a big happy, loving soul. Joe is now at peace in a great place with the Lord and free of stress, pain and sorrows.

Pallbearers

Gary Smith
Derrick Smith

Barry Taylor
Celena Smith

*In Our Hearts We thought of you today.
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday.
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake.
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our heart.
Words cannot describe the loss I feel*

*Saying farewell to you,
But heaven chose to give you wings
And now it's time you flew.
I wish that we could have more time,
That God had let you stay.
Forever would not be long enough
But I would take one day.
I wish I had just one more chance
To see that tender smile,
To laugh with you again my dear
Just for a little while.
Gone too soon, but not forgotten,
Forever you will remain,
My guiding light, my shining star,
Until I see your face again.*

Acknowledgements

Your expressions of sympathy, love, thoughtfulness and prayers have been greatly needed and appreciated during our bereavement.

The Family

Brown's Funeral Home

122 Plainfield Ave. • Plainfield, NJ

Diane L. Gentles - Manager NJ Lic. No. 4087

Justin Gentles, Funeral Director NJ Lic. No. 5399

Karen Zavala, Funeral Director NJ Lic. No. 5497

