



Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith

January 27, 1924 - December 9, 2016

Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith, our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister checked in with the Lord Jesus on Friday, December 9, 2016 to receive her crown of glory for a job well done at the age of 92 years. She was born January 27, 1924 in McCrory, Arkansas, the daughter of the late James and Lucille Ward.

James ward moved his family west to a resort community called Hot Springs, AR, where Juanita attended Langston High School and Eureka Baptist Church before migrating north to Saginaw, MI. She later joined Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C. under the leadership of Pastor H.J. Williams where she served on the Usher Board and later became Captain of the Ushers.

Mother Smith was a retiree of GM-Grey Iron Foundry and upon her retirement she couldn't sit still, so she went back into the work force as a housekeeper for the Saginaw YMCA. "Big Ma", as she was affectionately known by all, enjoyed cooking (especially fried chicken, which she could eat seven days a week). Her family called her "Juanita the chicken eater". She also loved working in her garden, doting on her grands and great-grands, going to church and the yearly Memphis, TN meetings.

Her memory will be cherished by her children, Gloria (Oliver) Thompson, Earlene Barnes, Richard (Sharon) Smith and Ray Carl Smith, all of Saginaw,

MI; step-daughter, Rosie Lee Johnson, Saginaw, MI; brother, Vesta Lee (Barbara) Ward, Las Vegas, NV; sister-in-law, Eula Ward, Trenton, NJ; grandchildren, Donna Pressley, Deidra Thompson, Anthony (Ellen) Thompson, Orlando Granison, Darryl Thompson, Darrick (Brenda) Granison, Angela (James) Dorsey, Melvin Barnes, Sherry (Kenny) McFadden, Dominique Hopkins of Hot Springs, AR, DeWayne Barnes, Craig Granison, Jeffrey (Paula) Thompson, Willie Branch, Toriano Smith, Richard Smith III and Katrina Smith; brother-in-law, Thomas Moore; sister-in-law, Margaret Hall; a dear friend that she has known all her life, Louise Pressley; she will also be missed by a multitude of great-great-grandchildren too numerous to mention and other relatives and friends.

Big Ma was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Richard Smith, Sr.; daughter, Catherine L. Peoples and Carolyn L. Smith; son-in-law, L.C. Peoples; son, Lawrence E. Smith; grandchildren, Dwana Barnes, Charles Smith and Eddie Pressley; her parents, James and Lucille Ward; brothers, Booker T., JC, John and Venoris Ward; sisters, Rena Foreman and Julia Moore; brother-in-law, Pastor Ray L. Smith.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 16, 2016 at Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C., 608 E. Remington Street. Pastor Arthur Aikin will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue on Thursday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. Family will be present from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to greet friends.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **15**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 N. Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-0481
evansbrownes@gmail.com
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

DEC **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C.
608 E. Remington Street
Saginaw, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Browne's Mortuary - December 15, 2016 at 02:41 PM

PT

Beautiul Life Story! May the work she did speak for her. RIH Aunt Juanita.

Pamela McMillian Thompson - December 17, 2016 at 12:04 PM

DS

“ *Ricky&Ray Carl, Aunt Juanita, had a beautiful life on this earth. My prayers are you with everyone.*

Duane Smith



Duane Smith - January 02, 2017 at 04:52 PM

RA

“ *Richard and family, I would like to extend my condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow. Stay prayful. God Bless you all.*



Renee Alexander

Renee Alexander - December 16, 2016 at 01:14 PM

CM

“ *Carolyn J. Mason lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



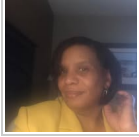
Carolyn J. Mason - December 16, 2016 at 11:41 AM

AH

“ *Aretha Hairston lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



aretha hairston - December 15, 2016 at 10:10 PM



“ Cheryl Walker lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Cheryl Walker - December 15, 2016 at 09:29 PM



“ Deborah Miller lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Deborah Miller - December 15, 2016 at 06:57 PM



“ Calvin And Phyllis Little lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Calvin and Phyllis Little - December 15, 2016 at 06:51 PM



“ Patricia Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Patricia Williams - December 15, 2016 at 01:55 PM

TB

“ Tyretha Baston lit a candle in memory of
Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Tyretha Baston - December 15, 2016 at 11:58 AM

SW

“ Shavonne Watkins lit a candle in memory of
Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Shavonne Watkins - December 15, 2016 at 11:35 AM

SS

“ Praying for the family



Shannon & Teresa Surles - December 15, 2016 at 09:11 AM

MC

“ Musingska Coleman lit a candle in memory of
Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Musingska Coleman - December 15, 2016 at 08:45 AM

DF

“ *Diana Miree & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Diana Miree & Family - December 15, 2016 at 08:43 AM

EC

“ *Erik And Nell Caviness lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Erik and Nell Caviness - December 15, 2016 at 08:19 AM

GB

“ *Glenda Booker lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Glenda Booker - December 14, 2016 at 10:43 PM

AK

“ *To the Family of Ms. Juanita Smith, I send my prayers and condolences.*

Alfreida Kirksey - December 14, 2016 at 09:41 PM

JJ

“ *Johnnie And Lakeisha Johnson Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Johnnie and Lakeisha Johnson Jr. - December 14, 2016 at 08:08 PM

DS

“ *Derek Smith lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Derek Smith - December 14, 2016 at 07:07 PM

ES

“ *Eddie Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Eddie Sanders - December 14, 2016 at 06:33 PM

MF

“ *Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family - December 14, 2016 at 05:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith.*



December 14, 2016 at 04:28 PM



“ *Bernice McGlothin lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Bernice McGlothin - December 14, 2016 at 12:06 PM



“ *Ms. Ernestine, Melvin and the rest of the family, I am so sorry about the loss of your mother and grandmother. May God strengthen you all and give you His peace.*



Tina Jamerson-Mata - December 14, 2016 at 06:07 AM



“ *Natalie McLaurin Johnson and Family*



Natalie Johnson - December 13, 2016 at 09:30 PM



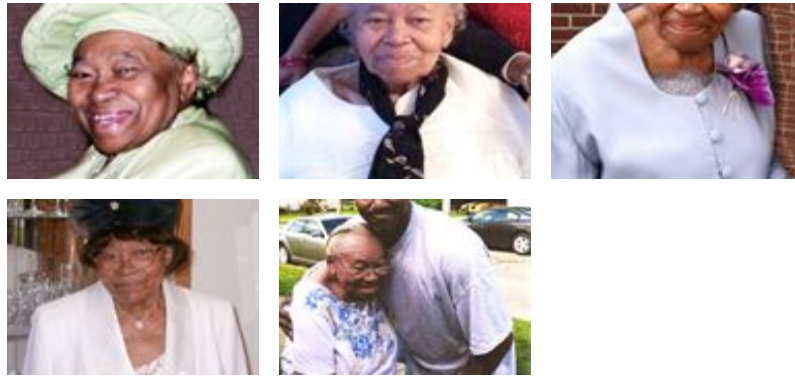
“ James Weston lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



James Weston - December 13, 2016 at 08:15 PM



“ 71 files added to the album Life Tributes



Browne's Mortuary - December 13, 2016 at 03:35 PM

DS

R. I. P. Momma. Gone But Will never Be Forgotten. Love You.

Derek Smith - December 14, 2016 at 07:10 PM

RF

“ Much love

Rose Ferrell - December 13, 2016 at 02:12 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith.*



December 13, 2016 at 01:56 PM



“ *Mary Smithers lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Mary Smithers - December 13, 2016 at 12:07 PM



“ *Culpepper Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Culpepper Family - December 13, 2016 at 10:32 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Richard Smith - December 13, 2016 at 08:56 AM

SS

Another Soldier gone home, My Mother-in law Juanita Smith who has always looked out for me, I never will forget you, Love you big ma, until we meet again in our Father house.

sharon smith - December 13, 2016 at 08:13 PM

LS

Gloria and Family I am sorry for your loss, she will greatly be missed. May God continue to Bless you and the family.

Louise Simpson - December 13, 2016 at 08:29 PM

DF

“ *Dixon Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Dixon Family - December 13, 2016 at 08:46 AM

DB

“ *Demarris Blackshear lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Demarris Blackshear - December 13, 2016 at 06:38 AM

KW

“ *Kim Caver Wright lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Kim Caver Wright - December 13, 2016 at 05:40 AM

DU

“ *My Big Mama you said don't ever forget you I can't always so loving and sweet I will miss our talks on the phone Love you to the moon and back your granddaughter Duna*



Duna - December 13, 2016 at 12:35 AM

TT

“ *Tierra Tivis lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Tierra Tivis - December 12, 2016 at 11:56 PM

PK

“ *Patricia Kirnon lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*




Patricia Kirnon - December 12, 2016 at 11:39 PM

AH

“ *Mother Juanita lived this scripture. She would always come by my parents crib just to check on them. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*
Titus 2:3-5 KJV Blessings to the Family in Jesus name

Anthony Howard - December 12, 2016 at 09:43 PM


Brittany
Morris

“ *We love and miss you Big Ma. We will cherish your memory.* 🙏



Brittany Morris - December 12, 2016 at 09:29 PM

RV

“ *Robert And Linda Veasley lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Robert and Linda Veasley - December 12, 2016 at 09:27 PM

GP

“ Gwendolyn Perry lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Gwendolyn Perry - December 12, 2016 at 08:55 PM

GP

This yellow candle represents Love and Family, I Share your Tears on this Day...

Gwendolyn Perry - December 12, 2016 at 08:59 PM

CW

“ May God give you strength and comfort during this difficult time. RIH BIG MAMA!!



Carolyn Washington - December 12, 2016 at 07:57 PM



“ Lucy Erby lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Lucy Erby - December 12, 2016 at 07:51 PM

CW

“ Carolyn Washington lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Carolyn Washington - December 12, 2016 at 07:43 PM

CW

Praying for your family, may God give you strength and comfort during this difficult time. RIH BIG MAMA!

Carolyn Washington - December 12, 2016 at 07:47 PM

SW

“ My sincere condolences to the family RIH Big Ma



stefanie wood - December 12, 2016 at 07:24 PM

YC

“ Yvonne Corley lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Yvonne Corley - December 12, 2016 at 07:19 PM

CW

“ Calvin & Delores Williams lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Calvin & Delores Williams - December 12, 2016 at 06:26 PM

TS

“ I am so sorry for your lost, may God contiune to bless and keep all of you.

Thomasina Smith



Thomasina Smith - December 12, 2016 at 05:47 PM

PT

“ Our condolences go out to the Smith Family, I remember Aunt Juanita and her kindness to my mother Thelma Smith McMillian, Our Prayers are for you to find strength in her memories and Peace of God knowing she is at rest.



Pamela McMillian Thompson - December 12, 2016 at 05:34 PM



“ Ray Smith lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Ray Smith - December 12, 2016 at 05:09 PM



I'm gonna miss you BigMa - love Brianna W.

Ray Smith - December 12, 2016 at 05:10 PM



“ *Ray Smith lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Ray Smith - December 12, 2016 at 05:09 PM



“ *Ray Smith lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Ray Smith - December 12, 2016 at 05:03 PM



“ *Ray Smith lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Ray Smith - December 12, 2016 at 05:02 PM

TR

“ *My condolences to the Smith and Barnes Family.*



Tammy Robbins - December 12, 2016 at 04:05 PM

AL

“ *Annie Lowery lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Annie Lowery - December 12, 2016 at 03:38 PM

JM

“ *Jeannie Castell Morris lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



jeannie castell morris - December 12, 2016 at 02:59 PM

MF

“ *Our Condolences to Mrs Smith's family.*



Mr.& Mrs.John L. Fifer - December 12, 2016 at 01:31 PM

HS

“ Herman And Cathy Sims lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Herman and Cathy Sims - December 12, 2016 at 01:31 PM

HS

RIH Aunt Juanita

Herman and Cathy Sims - December 12, 2016 at 01:32 PM

DF

“ Dell Rowan And Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Dell Rowan and family - December 12, 2016 at 11:50 AM

AW

“ Anthony (Todd) Wilford lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Anthony (Todd) Wilford - December 12, 2016 at 08:31 AM

CM

“Charlotte McMillan-Harper lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Charlotte McMillan-Harper - December 11, 2016 at 09:00 PM

JF

“Joerarado And Sharon Smith Frazer lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Joerarado and Sharon Smith Frazer - December 11, 2016 at 07:25 PM

DF

“Derek Smith And Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Derek Smith and Family - December 11, 2016 at 06:48 PM

JT

“Jacquelyn Smith Tyler lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith



Jacquelyn Smith Tyler - December 11, 2016 at 06:24 PM

KG

“ *Kimberly Griffin lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Kimberly Griffin - December 11, 2016 at 06:15 PM

YT

“ *Yolanda Castell Turner lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Yolanda Castell Turner - December 11, 2016 at 05:18 PM

DD

“ *Darlean Donald lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Darlean Donald - December 11, 2016 at 05:11 PM

KW

“ *Kim Caver Wright lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Kim Caver Wright - December 11, 2016 at 03:59 PM

SC

“ *Shanelle Castell lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Shanelle castell - December 11, 2016 at 01:00 PM

SH

“ *Shanelle lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Shanelle - December 11, 2016 at 12:58 PM

KH

“ *Love Mo. Smith and the family. I will be praying for you and this time.*

Kim Barksdale Henderson - December 11, 2016 at 10:59 AM

VT

“ *Isaiah 41:10, 13 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand ... For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."*

Vickey L. Tyson - December 11, 2016 at 09:35 AM

VT

“ *Vickey L. Tyson lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Vickey L. Tyson - December 11, 2016 at 09:33 AM

MS

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the Smith, Thompson and Burns families. Love Mary Ann Stewart*

Mary Ann Stewart - December 10, 2016 at 07:50 PM

HJ

“ *Houston And Elaine Jackson, Jr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Houston and Elaine Jackson, Jr. - December 10, 2016 at 02:22 PM

NJ

“ *Natalie McLaurin Johnson*



Natalie Johnson - December 09, 2016 at 10:22 PM

LB

“ *Linda Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Linda Brown - December 09, 2016 at 09:57 PM

BJ

“ *Aunt Juanita. A legend in her own way. RIP*



Brenda Jones - December 09, 2016 at 04:13 PM

VA

“ *Valerie lit a candle in memory of Mother Juanita "Big Ma" Smith*



Valerie - December 09, 2016 at 03:43 PM

VA

Thank you for sharing your life and love. Praise God! For Big Ma!

Valerie - December 14, 2016 at 06:04 AM