



Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.

April 16, 1956 - July 12, 2022

The Beginning

On Monday, April 16, 1956, Willie Milford Smith, Jr. was born to the parents of Elizabeth Carol Smith and Willie Milford Smith Sr. in Saginaw, Michigan.

The Village

Arthur and Datie Thompson, affectionately known to their children and grandchildren as Mama & Daddy believed in keeping the family close guaranteeing prosperity. Ultimately, Willie was raised by his loving grandparents and his family village. The village extended to the circle of three uncles, Arthur, Sidney, and Jerome Thompson; three aunts, Jacqueline Ward, Audrey Thompson, and Patricia "TC" Lloyd; and five cousins who became his brothers, Marshall Ward, James McMillan, Craig Ward, and Tyson Ward; one sister, Delphine McMillan.

The Life Journey

Earlier in his life, Willie most meaningful experience during his journey was accepting Christ as his personal Savior. He joined Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church under the leadership of the Reverend Isaiah Snelling. Willie received his formal education in the public schools of the Saginaw City School District (Potter Elementary, Arthur Eddy Junior High, and Saginaw High School). He enlisted in the United States Army in January 1975 and received basic combat training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. After completing Basic Training,

Willie received Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Ord, California, where he learned and succeeded in his military career as an aircraft mechanic. He was assigned overseas reported for active duty at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. In June 1979 he was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army. Willie continued that same level of commitment and dedication as he later did during his employment as a skillful building maintenance engineer and a trustworthy tax preparer working and serving his community as he met the needs of the people.

The Destination

Willie love, goodwill, strength, faith, and family legacy will reign forever. God called him from labor to reward, as he was peacefully ushered into God presence on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, with family close to his side.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories, his beloved mother, Elizabeth Carol Williams of Detroit, Michigan; admired sister, Tracee Williams of Detroit, Michigan; special brothers/cousins, Marshall (Irma) Ward, James (Ola) McMillan, and Craig Ward of Saginaw, Michigan. Also, he leaves his special sister/cousin, Delphine McMillan-Hopkins of Saginaw, Michigan; dearest aunts, Patricia "TC" Lloyd, Vivian and Atlanta Thompson, all of Saginaw, Michigan and ; along with a host of loving and supportive nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, especially his close friends, Lupe Davis, Sunday Russell and the Elmwood Manor family.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Arthur and Datie Thompson; father, Willie Milford Smith, Sr.; four sisters, Aissia, Marchelle, Yvette and Dawn Williams; one brother, Irvin Williams; brother/cousin, Tyson (Tunia) Ward; three uncles, Arthur, Sidney, and Jerome Thompson and two aunts, Jacqueline Ward, and Audrey Thompson.

"Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul"

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 AM Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, 1111 North 29th Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48601. Pastor Willie R. Hill, Jr. will officiate. Interment will take place in Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Road, Holly, Michigan 48442. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until the time of service.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church
1111 N. 29th Street
Saginaw, MI

Funeral Service

JUL 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church
1111 N. 29th Street
Saginaw, MI

Tribute Wall

LB

“ I met Willie in 1976 while he was stationed in Fort Ord, California. We reconnected in 1979 when he came back from Korea and I visited him and his family in Saginaw. That was the last time I saw Willie. I'd thought about him through the years and just this morning I thought about him and was surprised and sad to see he'd passed away. R.I.P. Willie. 🙏

Laura Ann K. Bonner - June 21, 2024 at 06:55 AM

SG

“ I love you will you will be missed o how we had some good times



Steven Garcia - December 13, 2022 at 10:57 AM

VB

“ I just was lying in my bed and something told me to see if my uncle Willie have passed away and low and behold he was I haven't seen uncle Willie and aunt Sunday for about 4 years and now I know now I know I love you uncle Willie I love you and I will miss you too

Vivian blacksher - August 20, 2022 at 02:06 PM

TF

“ T.Williams And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



T.Williams and family - July 30, 2022 at 03:00 PM

CS

“ Cathie Stephens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Cathie Stephens - July 26, 2022 at 09:32 PM

CS

“ Cathie Stephens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Cathie Stephens - July 26, 2022 at 09:31 PM

AK

“ Al Kelly lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Al Kelly - July 25, 2022 at 09:08 AM

CM

“ Cheryl Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Cheryl Moore - July 20, 2022 at 06:58 AM

MJ

“ I wanted to say I am so sorry.I know you all.Willie was really nice.I have known most of you.Milt from the neighborhood.4th and Farwell.I wish you peace and comfort in the hope of everlasting life that God promises to many.

Milton and Jacqueline - July 20, 2022 at 04:46 AM

LW

“ Louis Weems sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Louis Weems - July 17, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ Bernadette Tinsley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Bernadette Tinsley - July 16, 2022 at 05:25 PM

FH

“ Felicia Hogan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Felicia Hogan - July 16, 2022 at 04:50 PM

SH

“ Shirley Hughes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Shirley Hughes - July 16, 2022 at 04:44 PM

Adele Johnson

“ Adele Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Adele Johnson - July 16, 2022 at 01:21 AM

PH

“ Peggy Harvey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



peggy harvey - July 15, 2022 at 11:27 PM

CR

“ My condolences to the family
Willie was a good friend to alot
Of ppl hear at Elmwood miner
Me you R.I.P. my dear friend 💔



carrie reed - July 15, 2022 at 06:04 PM

JH

“ Jackie Hill-Hollins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Jackie Hill-Hollins - July 15, 2022 at 03:44 PM

DC

“ Deborah Champion lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Deborah Champion - July 15, 2022 at 01:49 PM



“ I'm very sorry to of the passing Willie prayers for his family



Pamela McDaniel - July 15, 2022 at 11:04 AM

LV

“ Linda McClain Veasley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Linda McClain Veasley - July 15, 2022 at 05:44 AM

CF

“ Charles Dorsey & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Charles Dorsey & Family - July 14, 2022 at 08:55 PM

WS

“ Willie Earl @ Carrie Thomas, Sr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Willie Earl @ Carrie Thomas, Sr. - July 14, 2022 at 12:26 PM

TW

“ Teresa Wright Wilcoxon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie M. Smith Jr.



Teresa Wright Wilcoxon - July 13, 2022 at 07:04 PM