



Desmond Earl Smith

August 25, 1937 - November 5, 2019

Desmond Earl (Des) Smith was the oldest of three children born to Reverend John Wesley Smith and Willie Mae Inglemon Smith. He made his entrance into the world on August 25, 1937, in Roxton, TX and departed on November 5, 2019 in Austin, TX.

Desmond accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized by the Reverend D. Edwin Johnson at Sunset Baptist Church in Texarkana, TX. Desmond's education began in the rural area of New Boston, TX in a one room country school. His mother, a teacher herself, saw the potential in Desmond and let him start school early. He completed Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Texarkana in 1954, before his 17th birthday. Although Texarkana was the home base for the Smith family, the children spent summers and some school time in Paris, TX with his maternal grandmother and aunt. While in high school, he played the E flat alto saxophone and continued his love of playing jazz and gospel music until God called him to play in His heavenly orchestra. After high school, he went to Oakland, CA where he joined the United States Air Force. He served for 11 years before returning to Texarkana where he was employed at Cooper Tire and served as president of the local union.

After earning the bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration at Texakana College, he accepted a position with GTE in Houston, TX. His job was later moved to the Dallas area where he lived and worked until he retired from GTE in 19xx. His post-retirement work was in real estate in the Dallas Metro Area.

While living in Arlington Des united with the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church where he was a member of the male chorus and the sanctuary choir and faithfully played his saxophone to the glory of God. He loved his church and his pastor, the Reverend C. L. Taylor, and took every opportunity to work in the music ministry. Des never forgot where he came from. He was active in the Dallas Dunbar Alumni Association where he served as the founder, president and served in many other capacities.

Desmond's love for his church was matched by his love for his immediate and extended families. When anyone needed names or contact information about relatives on the Smith or Inglemon sides of the family, everyone knew that Des was the one to contact.

When his health failed he moved to Bastrop, TX to be closer to his sister and her family.

His mother, father, and brother Hugh Smith, preceded him in death. Those left to celebrate his homegoing are daughters—Diedre Stephens (Edmund), Humble, TX; Betty White-Williams (David), Hooks, TX; and Janice Colston—as well as two sons—Gary Smith, Cleveland, TN; and Elbert White, Henderson, TX. In addition he also left his beloved sister, Gwendolyn Smith; several grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and many cousins and friends.

Cemetery Details

Private Burial

Previous Events

Celebration Service

NOV 9. 4:30 PM (CT)

MT ROSE BAPTIST CHURCH
507 TOLIVER
BASTROP, TX 78602

Tribute Wall



“ *Desmond Earl Smith*

October 06, 2023 at 07:08 AM



“ *6 files added to the album Memories Album*



school early. He completed Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Texarkana in 1954, before his 17th birthday. Although Texarkana was the home base for the Smith family, the children spent summers and some school time in Paris, TX with his maternal grandmother and aunt. While in high school, he played the E flat alto saxophone and continued his love of playing jazz and gospel music. When God called him to play in His heavenly orchestra.

After high school, he went to Oakland, CA where he joined the United States Air Force. He worked for 13 years before returning to Texarkana where he was employed at Cooper Tire and served as president of the local union.

After earning the bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration at Texarkana College, he accepted a position

memorial, in attention he also left no one out, Grandmother Smith, several grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many cousins and friends.

Just one more time,
I wish I could hear your voice
And hear you saying "I love You"
Unfortunately, life has taken that choice
Daddy, I will always remember your love for me
And you never letting me "go", but always saying
"We'll see which always meant "Oh
The love of God and His mercies will always

New Testament _____ Appointee _____
Prayer _____ Rev. Charles D. Smith
Music _____ Sister Nella Greene
Resolutions _____
Remarks: _____
(Please limit your remarks to two minutes each)



A Life Celebration by Franklin - October 05, 2020 at 01:08 PM



“ *My prayers and heartfelt condolences to Desmond's family. He will truly be missed by all who knew/loved him...especially his DHS family.*

*Minnie Brown Hannah
DHS ~ Class of '68*

Minnie Hannah - November 15, 2019 at 06:28 AM

MH

“ *Minnie Hannah lit a candle in memory of
Desmond Earl Smith*



Minnie Hannah - November 15, 2019 at 06:22 AM

BN

“ *Sending prayers & comfort to the Desmond Smith family. God
continue to keep u in His loving arms.
Pat Dizer Odom, class of '61
Brenda Dizer North, class of '64*

Brenda Dizer North - November 14, 2019 at 02:11 PM

SS

“ *Sylvia Hilson Smith lit a candle in memory of
Desmond Earl Smith*



Sylvia Hilson Smith - November 14, 2019 at 01:34 PM

SK

“ *Sharon Kelly lit a candle in memory of
Desmond Earl Smith*



Sharon Kelly - November 12, 2019 at 11:58 AM

JN

“ *Joseph Norton lit a candle in memory of Desmond Earl Smith*



Joseph Norton - November 10, 2019 at 09:18 PM

LE

“ *We were surprised to hear of Desmond's passing, but comforted by his salvation and knowing he is in Heaven. May Desmond rest in peace.*

So sorry we will not be able to attend the services, as we have previously scheduled travel arrangements. Praying for you as you celebrate his life.

*Lester, Nikkee & Micah Espree
(Daughter of Eula Smith)*

Lester & Nikkee Espree - November 08, 2019 at 05:16 PM

GR

“ *G. Faye Rush lit a candle in memory of Desmond Earl Smith*



G. Faye Rush - November 08, 2019 at 09:49 AM

GR

*My condolences and prayers to the family.
Rest in Peace and Love Des.*

G. Faye Rush - November 08, 2019 at 09:52 AM

JN

Des, I will miss the many phone calls we made to each other throughout the years especially on our birthdays. Yours August 25th and mine September 1st usually preceded with "happy birthday old man". Even though we promised to do this again next year, you were called home to rest.

My heartfelt condolences to the Family. Rest in Peace.

*Your classmate,
Joe Norton '54*

Joseph Norton - November 10, 2019 at 09:02 PM

BD

To: Desmond's family

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. May the Lord bless and comfort you in your time of bereavement that you may comfort and bless others in their time of bereavement.

To: Desmond

Well done faithful servant. You shall receive your crown.

R.I.P. knowing you did and your work on earth is now done. You can pass the baton. Other Dunbarites will receive the baton and continue to run the race with God's Amazing Grace.

*Yours in Christ
Bertha Coleman Downs*

Bertha Downs - November 12, 2019 at 06:40 PM