



Willie "DC" Smith

April 10, 1957 - July 16, 2019

Willie Darnell "DC" Smith was born April 10, 1957 and went to be with his heavenly father on July 16, 2019.

He was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina where he graduated from Hillside High School. He attended and played basketball at Brevard Junior College before transferring to play basketball at East Tennessee State University where he graduated with a BS in Computer Science and later earned a Masters degree. He was a member of Saint Paul AME Zion Church.

DC was a math professor at ETSU where his motto for his students was "Do as I say do!" He loved teaching, playing basketball, tennis and the piano. He loved life and everyone around him. DC excelled at helping people achieve their full potential, while learning the value of hard work.

His wonderful life will be cherished by his wife Sheila Smith, two sons Christopher Smith, and Shannon (Diane) Diggs of Seaford, Virginia; stepson Jordan Charles, stepdaughter Alexis Gardner, two grandchildren Grayson Charles and Halle Charles who knew him as Papa "D". His siblings, sister Deborah Smith of Durham, NC; brothers Steve Smith (Kim) of Durham, NC; Rodney Smith (Vanessa) of Marietta, GA; nephews and little brother Demond Smith, Rodney Smith Jr, Calvin Smith, and niece Sydney Smith.

He also leaves behind very special friends, Robert Davidson, Pete Peterson (Stacy), Eric Adelman (Kim), Larry Taylor (Michelle). His two god children Emily Davidson and Leland Davidson, along with a host of relatives, friends and his church family. DC will be dearly missed by all he came into contact with. He had a wonderful smile and a big heart that was always there for anyone who needed him.

At his request he was cremated. The service to celebrate his life will be held at St. Paul AME Zion, 201 Welbourne Street. The family will receive friends from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm Saturday, July 27, 2019 with a memorial service following with Reverend Philmont Bostric officiating. Music will be provided by Roddy Bird and the St. Paul Choir. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his memory to Park and Recreation Foundation, P O Box 2150, Johnson City, Tennessee.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 27. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Paul AME Zion Church
201 Welbourne St
Johnson City, TN 37601

Celebration of Life

JUL 27. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

St. Paul AME Zion Church
201 Welbourne St
Johnson City, TN 37601

Tribute Wall

BR

“ You will forever be missed, I think of you often.

Bria - July 12, 2024 at 03:12 PM

OP

“ Mr. Smith as I knew him, was my basketball coach at the Boy's Club in Johnson City in the 1980's. I was telling my daughter, who is 20, about my coach. She asked why I knew this much about basketball. Well, it's because of DC Smith. I will never forget this man and what he did for me as a scrawny middle schooler. Thank you DC for taking part of the formation of the man I am today. Although heartbroken that I am too late to thank him in person, I hope his family will read this and accept my love and admiration for this one-of-a-kind gentleman. Peace to you DC! Your #12.

Old B-Ball Player - January 06, 2024 at 07:31 PM



“ Willie "DC" Smith

January 29, 2023 at 10:28 PM

CS

“ Rest In Peace My Friend.....Dr Charles E Stuart



Charles Stuart - August 14, 2019 at 07:12 PM

CS

“ It was a great honor to know DC; he will be missed
Charlie Stahl



Charlie Stahl - July 28, 2019 at 10:32 AM

CT

“ I was 63 years old when I took DC's class in Developmental Algebra. New to ETSU and new to Tennessee. From New Zealand actually. Of all the teachers I had in my efforts to earn my bachelor's degree, DC was the most caring and interested in my learning and passing the class. I loved his teaching style, and his personality, and have very warm memories of him as a person. I send my deep-felt condolences to his family.
Colleen Trenwith.

Colleen M Trenwith - July 27, 2019 at 11:56 AM

RE

“ REV. EASTERLY lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



REV. EASTERLY - July 27, 2019 at 07:23 AM

T(

“ Darnell- I can remember the ole days @ the apt behind old Gordon's on LEE CIRCLE where Haze Green and Barbara lived I ended up marrying Jeannie and u helped her when she attended ETSU!!!! Our condolences to your family!!!!

terry byrd (tbyrd) - July 27, 2019 at 04:46 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Willie "DC" Smith.*



July 26, 2019 at 07:39 PM



“ *Ruth Mensah sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Ruth Mensah - July 26, 2019 at 08:40 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. It was a pleasure to work with DC at ETSU. He cared so much about the students.*



Teresa Brooks Taylor - July 26, 2019 at 06:35 AM

DB

“ I have had the honor and privilege of knowing DC ever since he walked in my class at ETSU when he first became a student. That started a wonderful friendship that endured as long as he lived. He was a treasure of a man and a warm loving friend. I am shocked and greatly, greatly saddened by his passing, but I know Heaven has an awesome new citizen. His terrific and warming smile will bring new joy there. No matter whether I ran into him at a ball game, in a store, or at ETSU, he and I always found time to laugh and talk about so many fantastic memories, hopes and dreams, and his wonderful work shepherding young people through their lives. Johnson City has lost a wonderful man, I have lost a great friend, and I pray God gives all of his family and friends the strength and peace that only God can give as we adjust to life without DC. God bless you every one.

*Don Bailes
Department of Computing
ETSU*

Don Bailes - July 25, 2019 at 03:47 PM

AN

“ Christopher; I am deeply sorry to hear of his passing. DC and I worked many years together officiating collegiate tennis and missed him when he called it quits few years back as an official. I don't have your # else would have called you. Will be out of town working the Washington DC ATP/WTA event to attend the services.
Anand

Anand - July 25, 2019 at 03:01 PM

AM

“ Rest In Peace Professor D.C



Aliyah Mumpoleze - July 25, 2019 at 02:19 PM

TM

“ DC had such a huge impact on my life. I will miss him deeply. I will be praying for you guys.



Terry McCoy - July 25, 2019 at 02:18 PM

SR

“ Sandra Ritchie lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Sandra Ritchie - July 25, 2019 at 01:51 PM

PT

“ Sending up prayers for the Smith family.



Phyllis Thompson - July 25, 2019 at 01:30 PM

AM

“ I am so very saddened by this. I have know D.C. since I have been here at ETSU. He was my go-to when students needed a caring math professor. I always told them to go to Mr.Smith. I will miss him and the valuable lessons that he taught so many students, besides math that they could comprehend! He was a light on campus. I am just so very sorry!
Angie Marson

Angela marson - July 25, 2019 at 01:27 PM

EF


“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I had many students who loved him, and he always went above and beyond for them. Your family is in my prayers.

Elizabeth Forbes - July 25, 2019 at 12:50 PM

TJ

“ Shelia, I'm so sorry for your loss. I know he was the love of your life and you both was so happy and carefree together. He was a great man and I know he loved you with all his heart. I know that Jordan and Alexis are devastated as well as the grandchildren because they loved Papa D. May God wrap his arm around you, your children,grandchildren and his son as well as his brothers and sister. May he Rest In Peace.


Torsha Johnson - July 25, 2019 at 08:07 AM

 Brenda
Akins
Charles

“ James & Brenda A. Charles



Brenda Akins Charles - July 25, 2019 at 12:03 AM

 Brenda
Akins
Charles

“ *James & Brenda A. Charles*



Brenda Akins Charles - July 25, 2019 at 12:01 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willie "DC" Smith.*



July 24, 2019 at 08:40 PM



“ *Louis Locke Jr lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Louis Locke Jr - July 24, 2019 at 06:29 PM



“ *I worked many years with D C for the City of Johnson City. We had the best times, so many laughs. So many happy memories. You'll forever be in my heart, my friend. Prayers for the Smith family.
Sincerely, Janet Ellis*

Janet Ellis - July 24, 2019 at 05:38 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Jamie McGill - July 24, 2019 at 02:57 PM

JM

“ *Being in Gilbreath won't be the same. I'm going to miss our talks, so many sayings, and your "preaching" and music. None of us will forget "one man's opinion" or your wonderful smile. Thank you for your friendship. My prayers are with DC's family and friends.*

Jamie McGill - July 24, 2019 at 02:52 PM

HS

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*



Houston Scruggs - July 23, 2019 at 03:54 PM

T(

DC u R in heaven W/ Melvin I can NOT believe that's Sammy and randy!!!!

terry byrd (tbyrd) - July 27, 2019 at 04:34 AM

DS

“ *Deborah Simmons-Grey sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Deborah Simmons-Grey - July 22, 2019 at 09:01 PM

GC

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with DC's family. God bless you all.*



Geary and Renee Coles - July 22, 2019 at 06:30 PM

AL

“ *Aubrey Lee lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Aubrey Lee - July 22, 2019 at 04:59 PM

AL

“ *D.C. was a great man who did much for our community and all the young people he impacted in his coaching and teaching. He will be missed. Our condolences to all his family and friends.*

Aubrey Lee - July 22, 2019 at 04:58 PM

KH

“ *Kay F. Hobbs lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Kay F. Hobbs - July 22, 2019 at 01:49 PM

KH

Sorry for this lost. God is with you all. Love your cousin kay.

Kay F. Hobbs - July 22, 2019 at 01:50 PM

CG

“ *Carol Garrison lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Carol Garrison - July 22, 2019 at 11:41 AM

ND

“ *Heartfelt condolences to Dia and Chris and all who were blessed to know and love "DC". Even though our paths haven't cross as much as they once did, we still remember his uplifting spirit and that million-dollar smile – it could light up a room! To the family and "family" of friends: May God continue bless you and keep you in His care.*

Norman and Margaret Davis - July 22, 2019 at 10:24 AM

AT

“ *Rip, Great Memories. Wonderful Brother. You will be missed. Arnold and Shirley Thomas*



Arnold Thomas - July 22, 2019 at 10:09 AM

WB

“ *Wjualana Benson lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Wjualana Benson - July 22, 2019 at 10:04 AM

EL

“ *Elaine sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Elaine - July 22, 2019 at 08:42 AM

KB

“ *Katie Bailey-Hynes sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Katie Bailey-Hynes - July 21, 2019 at 09:22 AM

YH

“ Yvonne Holifield lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Yvonne Holifield - July 21, 2019 at 08:19 AM

Mary Rollins

“ Mary Rollins lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Mary Rollins - July 20, 2019 at 09:59 PM

JW

“ Janice Wells sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Janice wells - July 20, 2019 at 07:15 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Willie "DC" Smith.



July 20, 2019 at 03:37 PM

RB

“ Roddy Bird lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Roddy Bird - July 20, 2019 at 07:55 AM

YF

“ Yvette Font lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Yvette Font - July 20, 2019 at 02:45 AM

YF

DC will be truly missed. I am so sorry and send my sincerest condolences to the family especially to Dia and Chris. He was a great guy and friend. We will miss you DC. Our love, Yvette and Tyrique Price and family.

Yvette Font - July 20, 2019 at 02:45 AM

 Kacie Jarrett

“ Kacie Jarrett lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Kacie Jarrett - July 19, 2019 at 07:27 PM

GB

“ G.L. & Trish Bristol sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



G.L. & Trish Bristol - July 19, 2019 at 04:37 PM

Brenda
Akins
Charles

“ Brenda Akins Charles sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Brenda Akins Charles - July 19, 2019 at 10:34 AM

Brenda
Akins
Charles

“ Brenda Akins Charles lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Brenda Akins Charles - July 19, 2019 at 10:34 AM

WJ

“ Wilma Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Wilma Jenkins - July 19, 2019 at 09:37 AM

SB

“ *Missing his contagious smile, quick wit and sparkling eyes. You will always be in our hearts my forever friend. Rev. Sharon Bowers*

Sharon Bowers - July 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Denise White lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Denise White - July 18, 2019 at 08:15 PM

JJ

“ *Joseph Hardin, Jr. lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Joseph Hardin, Jr. - July 18, 2019 at 08:05 PM

DB

“ *Diane Bradley lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Diane Bradley - July 18, 2019 at 08:04 PM

JW

“ *Janice Wells sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Janice wells - July 18, 2019 at 04:37 PM

JW

“ *Janice Wells sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Janice wells - July 18, 2019 at 04:27 PM

JW

He will be missed the big smile and all. He was very faithful to the St. PAUL CHURCH and it's members. He was full of life and laughter he was one of a kind. He loved life and Teaching. MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Janice wells - July 18, 2019 at 04:41 PM

LB

“ *Lynn & Rayetta Bachman lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith*



Lynn & Rayetta Bachman - July 18, 2019 at 03:34 PM

SO

“ Stacy Onks lit a candle in memory of Willie
"DC" Smith



Stacy Onks - July 18, 2019 at 03:18 PM

SO

Many prayers to DCs family and friends. ETSU and our lives will not be the same without him in it. He was much loved and lived a life full out. One of the most caring, kind hearted, energetic person I have every met. He will be truly missed.

Stacy Onks - July 18, 2019 at 03:22 PM

 Jo
Lobertini

“ Jo Lobertini lit a candle in memory of Willie
"DC" Smith



Jo Lobertini - July 18, 2019 at 10:12 AM

 Jo
Lobertini

DC, you were a guiding light and loving godfather to my children. You will be missed. My prayers are with your family. Thank you for everything you did for my family.

Jo Lobertini - July 18, 2019 at 10:13 AM

VM

“ Vernon Mott lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Vernon Mott - July 18, 2019 at 08:59 AM

TB

“ Trish Stafford Branham lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Trish Stafford Branham - July 18, 2019 at 06:38 AM

TB

Rest in Peace my friend! You will be missed.

Trish Stafford Branham - July 18, 2019 at 06:39 AM

WR

“ WINFRED R. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Willie "DC" Smith.



WINFRED R. - July 18, 2019 at 06:24 AM

CB

“ Charles Bufford lit a candle in memory of Willie "DC" Smith



Charles Bufford - July 17, 2019 at 11:45 PM

CB

DC I will miss u my friend God bless

Charles Bufford - July 17, 2019 at 11:46 PM

WR

DC loved competing with you at etsu, will miss you my friend, God Bless you, wreid

winfred reid - July 18, 2019 at 06:12 AM

RE

So sorry to hear about the death of DC. Ive known him for years and NEVER saw him without that Big Smile. He will truly be missed. Robin English

Robin English - July 18, 2019 at 09:51 AM

HR

DC coached my son on the Science Hill tennis team for 4 years! What a fine man and shining example for the young men! Prayers for peace and comfort for his family.

Hazel Robinson - July 18, 2019 at 11:08 AM

CA

Condolences to the family of DC Smith. It has been a very long time since we all walked the yard of ETSU. Our family enjoyed watching DC and my brother BJ play ball at ETSU. We were saddened to hear of his passing and send peace and comfort to the family. Carol Johnson Raymond / BJ (Brent) Johnson

Carol - July 18, 2019 at 02:27 PM

CP

DC left his mark on this world. Always smiling and that big laugh...will miss you, friend!

Cindy Price - July 18, 2019 at 05:45 PM

HS

Condolences to all that knew 'little willie' in name only because , he was a big man in stature and heart. We all will miss that smile but, take comfort in knowing that we will see him again because he was a believer, take Joy in that . My Prayers are with all his family.

Houston Scruggs - July 23, 2019 at 03:48 PM

MM

Condolences to The family of DC. It has been many years since we walked the yard of ETSU and the many memories of the fun and laughter. He always had that beautiful smile and a big heart. Although it's been years I see that he continued to touch the lives of so many others. Thoughts and prayers are sent to your family. I pray God wraps his arms around your family and give you comfort during this time. God Bless! 🙏

Melodie Martin-Daniels - July 24, 2019 at 09:49 PM