

In Loving Memory of



*James H. Smith, Jr.*

Sunrise: June 29, 1941

Sunset: December 4, 2015

Service

Saturday, December 12, 2015 - 9:00 a.m.

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

*Deacon Rodney Beckford, Officiating*

*Rev. David Jenkins, Organist*

## Obituary

**James H. Smith, Jr.** was born in Harlem, New York on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1941 to Elaine Major and James Herbert Smith. “Son”, as family members affectionately knew him, always gave back to the community by mentoring local youth to set and strive for goals. Through field trips, Son was able to reach many At-Risk young people by determination and consistency. Many came back to thank him for his “tough love” which he applied throughout his lifetime. He was always willing to “lend a hand” without ever asking anything in return. Son graduated from The City College of New York with a B.S. with a concentration in Accounting. For a short period of time, Son toiled at a private accounting firm where he honed his skills and soon became the “go to guy”. He was always fascinated with finance, which would later help him become successful. In the 1960’s, Son with a growing family, accepted a position at The Port Authority of N.Y. & N.J. He quickly became invaluable because of his meticulous approach in any assignment he undertook. His work ethic became so invaluable that he started rising in the company despite many roadblocks. A pivotal job opportunity presented itself when Son was put in charge of maintaining the budgets of the three airports: LaGuardia, Newark and JFK. In the 1970’s, when the world entered the Computer Age, Son became fascinated and learned all the about the computer. Because of his technical and detailed background, computers proved to be a smooth transition for Son. Another fascination for Son was roller-skating in his free time. He won many tournaments and was dubbed “Daddy Cool” because of his “cool” style of skating and his many colorful headbands.

Two years before retirement in 1996, Son re-married. While working as a Financial Analyst, Son was personally handpicked by then Director of Aviation, William DeCota to oversee the department’s budget. Although many positions were offered including Executive Assistant, Son left to start his own computer repair business. Once retired, Son had more time to spend with his family and new wife (“Dee”). His clients were diverse, including former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, former Secretary of State of New York and former Commissioner of The Port Authority of N.Y. & N.J., Basil Patterson as well as “plain everyday folk”. He would always undercharge everyday folk because he wanted them to be connected to the computer age. He always said, “I’m giving Black people a break because they deserve it”. He seldom did anything for profit and would sometimes not charge a struggling family because he enjoyed repairing and helping people.

When his wife showed an interest in the entertainment business, Son as he usually would in anything he had an interest in, researched extensively. As a result, they both executive produced a successful dramatic web series called “Disciplinary Actions” which is about union and non-union employees in the workplace. Disciplinary Actions went on to win eight awards at a 2012 Los Angeles Web fest. It was an official selection at 2012 International TV Film Festival and placed third at the 2011 Urban Mediamakers Film Festival.

Son is survived by: His wife of nearly twenty-three years, Dianna (“Dee”); Sisters: Carolyn Jackson and Antoinette Mabin; Brother: Harvey V. Smith; Brothers-in-law: Freddie Mabin and Richie Scott; Daughter: Tamarra Davis; Sons: James L. Smith and Tyler Wright; Son-in law: Warren Davis; Daughter-in-law: Frida Smith; Nephews: Nathaniel Mabin, David Jackson, Hakim Bey and Jamel Brown; Nieces: Crystal Mabin, Niya Spencer, Lisa Price, Yvette Clarke, Renee’ Clarke, Jeannine Andrews and Nicolette Brown; Grandchildren: Jaieza Smith, April Davis, Jira Smith, Myles Davis, Jabiri Smith and Javyn Smith; Godson: Jordan Price; and other cherished family and friends.

# Order of Service

Gathering Selection

Liturgy Of The Word

Old Testament

New Testament

Homily..... Deacon Bedford

Obituary..... Lisa Price

Welcoming Remarks..... Niya Spencer

Remarks..... Carolyn Jackson (Prayer)

Poem .....James L. Smith and Tamarra Davis

Poem .....Jaieza Smith, April Davis, Jira Smith,  
Myles Davis, Jabiri Smith and Javyn Smith

Farewell Remarks..... Tyler Wright

Commendation

Recessional Hymn



*Dear lovely death'  
That taketh all things under wing  
Never to kill  
Only to change  
Into some other thing  
This suffering flesh,  
To make it either more or less  
Yet not again the same  
Dear lovely death, Change is thy other name.*

- Langston Hughes

**To Say Goodbye**  
*To say goodbye is not the end  
To all my family and friends  
For life goes on, you must endure  
For my eternity is sure.  
Remember all the good times  
The memories we've shared  
The precious jewels of laughter  
The tender love and care.  
I found my resting place  
God's peace surrounds my soul  
Let love abound in all your hearts  
Let heaven be your goal.*

-Author unknown

*Interment*  
Rosehill Cemetery • Linden, Jersey

Repast

To be held at: 4 West 122<sup>nd</sup> Street between Lenox Ave & 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.



Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
 That saved a wretch like me!  
 I once was lost, but now am found;  
 Was blind, but now I see.  
 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
 And grace my fears relieved;  
 How precious did that grace appear  
 The hour I first believed.  
 Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
 I have already come;  
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
 And grace will lead me home.  
 The Lord has promised good to me,  
 His Word my hope secures;  
 He will my Shield and Portion be,  
 As long as life endures.  
 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
 That saved a wretch like me!  
 I once was lost, but now am found;  
 Was blind, but now I see.

**Pallbearers**

Hakim Bey      Tony Clomax  
 Julius Price    Richie Scott  
 Harvey Smith   Tyler Wright

*Acknowledgement*

The family of **James Smith** wishes to express our appreciation to our many friends for your kindness, compassion and love extended during our season of loss.

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