

His Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of him as gone away-
his journey's just begun. Life holds so
many facets this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting from the sorrows
and the tears. In a place of warmth and comfort
where there is no days and years.

Think of how he must be wishing that we could
know today. How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of him as living in the hearts
of those he touched. For nothing is ever
lost- and he was loved so much.

By: Ellen Brenneman

Flower Bearers
Family and Friends

Acknowledgements:

Thank you sincerely for your kind expressions of sympathy
and thoughtfulness, it is deeply appreciated and will always
be remembered, by the family of
Joe N. Smith Jr.

Arrangements Entrusted To:
R. A. Prince Funeral Services
16222 Broadway Avenue
Maple Heights, OH 44137
Phone: 216-518-1777 Fax: 216-518-1975
info@raprince.com

Celebrating the Life Of Joe Nathan Smith Jr.



Sunrise
July 3, 1955

Sunset
June 25, 2023

Friday, July 7, 2023

Memorial Service
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

R.A. Prince Funeral Services
16222 Broadway Avenue
Maple Heights, OH 44137

Rev. Jennifer Whatley Williams,
Officiating Minister

Order of Service

- Processional.....”Don’t Look Down”
David Ryan Harris
- Musical Selection.....”Take Me To The King”
Tamela Mann
- Scripture.....Proverbs 17:22.....Rev. Jennifer Whatley Williams
- Prayer.....Rev. Jennifer Whatley Williams
- Selection.....”I Won’t Complain”
Doc McKenzie & The Hi-Lites
- Acknowledgements/Resolutions.....Pamela Briggs
- Obituary.....Pamela Briggs
- Slide Show Presentation.....
- Selection.....”Blessed and Highly Favored”
Snoop Dogg ft The Clark Sisters
- Eulogy.....Rev. Jennifer Whatley Williams
- Recessional.....

Repast:
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Henn Mansion
23131 Lakeshore Blvd.
Euclid OH, 44123

Stand

and so I stand
bare and exposed
unafraid to shy away
because though the clouds
thunder and pour
and rain falls from my eyes
I remain steadfast
and though I may kneel
I refuse to fall to my knees
for I have things to do
and places to be
so I cannot fall.

my back has grown so tired
my days have gotten longer
but that is no excuse
so I must sprout my wings
and fly as high as
the wind can take me
so I cannot be confined
and neither can you.

take my hand
and soar the skies with me
the rain cannot touch your skin
if you fly above the
clouds that contain them
united we stand
together we fly
and alone we fall
so soar with me.

let your wings sprout
with the water from your eyes
and fly.

Poem: by Joe N. Smith IV

Obituary

On June 25th, 2023, surrounded by his loving family Joe Nathan Smith Jr. peacefully embraced eternal rest, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Best known for his role as a devoted son, brother, husband, father and grandfather, his unwavering courage, selflessness, and unshakable love will forever remain etched in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

Throughout his battle with cancer, Joe demonstrated extraordinary resilience, grace, and determination. Despite the challenges he faced, he never lost his spirit, maintaining a steadfast faith that provided solace and strength to his family and friends. His positive outlook and undying optimism and grace continue to serve as an inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Born on July 3, 1955, Joe was the youngest of six children born to Joe Nathan Smith Sr. and Mildred Smith. He grew up in a close-knit family, where he developed a strong bond with his siblings, who meant the world to him. Joe's compassionate nature and ability to make others feel loved and welcomed were evident from an early age and those values stuck with him for life.

Joe grew up in Shaker Heights, Ohio, where he graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1974. Following his education, he embarked on a remarkable career at United Airlines, where he dedicated 40 years of his life. During his time there, Joe not only found professional success but also formed countless lifelong friendships. In addition to his career at United, Joe also pursued his passion for fixing cars. He co-owned J and E Auto with his best friend, Ernest Boyd, and their partnership thrived on their shared expertise and love for automobiles. Joe's skills as a mechanic were unmatched, and his dedication to providing top-notch service to his customers was always accompanied by his trademark humor and cheerful demeanor.

Beyond his professional achievements, Joe's greatest joys in life were his roles as a husband, father, and grandfather. His devotion to his wife and five children was unwavering, and he tirelessly worked to provide them with love, guidance, and endless support.

Joe's personal life was filled with love and resilience and he was fortunate enough to find true love not once but twice; a testament to his love and strong sense of commitment. His first marriage to Hermella Finley, was tragically cut short by her battle with breast cancer, but not before the couple welcomed three beautiful children into the world: Allemreh affectionately called Toni Smith-Daniels (Roscoe Daniels), Joe N Smith III (LaToya Smith), and Adam Smith. Despite the immense pain and loss he experienced, Joe remained resilient, pouring his love and care into raising their children and ensuring they always felt loved and supported.

Joe's love and devotion extended beyond their union, and he later found happiness again with his second wife, Angela "Michelle" Thomas. The couple shared an unbreakable bond during their 32 year marriage all the way up until his death. Michelle not only became a loving companion to



mother to them. To this union they were blessed with two more children, Alice Gaines (Tyree Gaines) and Sparkle Smith completing their loving family.

Family meant everything to Joe, he was a pillar of support, providing unwavering love, wisdom, and encouragement to his children throughout their lives. Joe's devotion to his children and grandchildren knew no bounds, and he took immense pride in their accomplishments and happiness.

Joe had an incredible sense of humor and a gift for making people laugh. He had an innate ability to find joy in life's simplest pleasures and spread that joy to those around him. His infectious laughter and quick wit brightened the lives of everyone he encountered. Joe's warm and jovial nature endeared him to everyone he met. His positive disposition and optimistic outlook on life were contagious, and he taught those around him the value of cherishing every moment.

Joe never met a stranger, and his genuine kindness made all those around him feel loved and welcomed. He had a natural ability to connect with people, and his presence brightened any room he entered. To his nieces and nephews, he was affectionately known as "Uncle Joe," and they held a special place in his heart.

Joe leaves behind a loving legacy that will be carried on by his wife Angela "Michelle", five children, Toni, Joe, Adam, Alice and Sparkle, two sisters Joanna Smith and Una Rodgers (Robert Rodgers), His loving sister in laws Patricia Smith and Fondtella Ford. His 9 grandchildren, Alailah Stoker, Joe Smith IV, Tyree Gaines Jr, Zariah Smith, Allyssa Gaines, Journey Smith, Legend Smith, Aleah Gaines and Adonna Smith. A host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

He is reuniting in heaven with his parents, Joe Nathan Smith Sr. and Mildred Smith, his brothers Robert, Grayland, and Ronald Smith, and his beloved first wife, Hermella.

While we mourn the loss of Joe, we also celebrate the incredible impact he had on the lives of those around him. His memory will forever be cherished, and his spirit will continue to inspire love, laughter, and positivity in the hearts of all who knew him. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may we honor his memory by embracing the joy, love and warmth he brought into our lives.

Humbly submitted,
The Smith Family

