



HONORING THE LIFE OF  
GySgt Daniel Smith, Sr.

February 21st, 1936 - November 19th, 2023

— ✦ —  
Saturday, December 9th, 2023

11:00am

GREATER LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

2770 Glebe Road

Lemon Grove, CA 91945



# ORDER OF CELEBRATION

Opening Prayer	Pastor Nate Stewart
Musical Prelude	Precious Lord
Obituary	Patrina McKinney
Scripture	Pastor Nate Stewart
Musical Selection	Carolyn Carter & Mia Stevenson
Eulogy	Daniel Smith, Jr
Musical Selection	Carolyn Carter & Mia Stevenson
Acknowledgements & Thoughts From Family and Friends	
Memorial Tribute Video	
Closing Prayer	Pastor Nate Stewart



## MILITARY HONORS

Miramar National Cemetary  
5795 Nobel Drive  
San Diego, CA 92122



Repass to take place at  
Greater Life Baptist Church



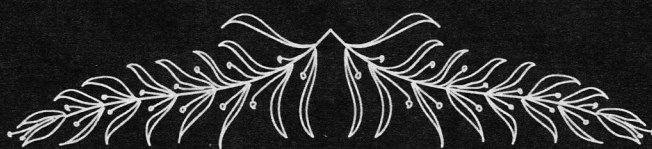
# OBITUARY

Daniel Smith, Sr. was born in Hattiesburg, MS, to Willie and Randolph Smith. He was the 11th of 13 children. Daniel's early years were marked by a deep faith, and he accepted Christ at a young age. He was baptized at Antioch Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. R.W. Woullard.

Daniel's educational journey led him to graduate from Depriest High School, setting the foundation for a life of service and dedication. His love for his country was evident in his honorable military career as a United States Marine, where he valiantly served during both the Korean War as well as the Vietnam War. Daniel's commitment extended beyond the military, as he dedicated 20 years of his life as an employee of Pitney Bowes. A man of faith and community, Daniel was an active member of Greater Life Baptist Church, where his presence was a source of inspiration for many. His passion for athletics and mentorship was evident in his role as a volunteer track coach, and treasurer for Mercury San Diego Track and Field since 2002, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those he guided.

Daniel Smith, Sr. was a devoted father to five children: Amelia Price (deceased), Thomas Smith (deceased), Patricia Smith, Daniel Smith, Jr. and LaClaire Williams Webb. His legacy lives on through a host of grandkids, great grandkids, great great grandkids, nieces, cousins and friends who will cherish the memories of a life well lived.

A man of strength, honor and compassion, Daniel Smith, Sr. touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed. As we mourn his passing, let us also celebrate the rich tapestry of a life dedicated to faith, family and service. May he rest in eternal peace.



# EULOGY

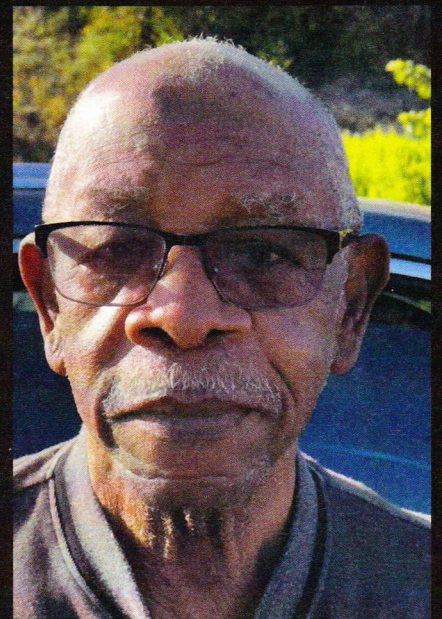
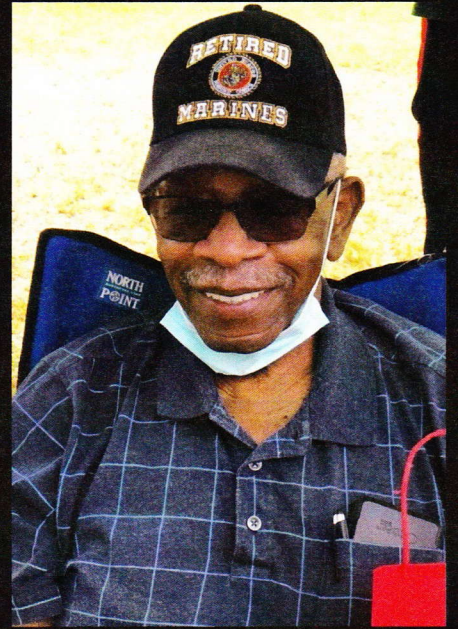
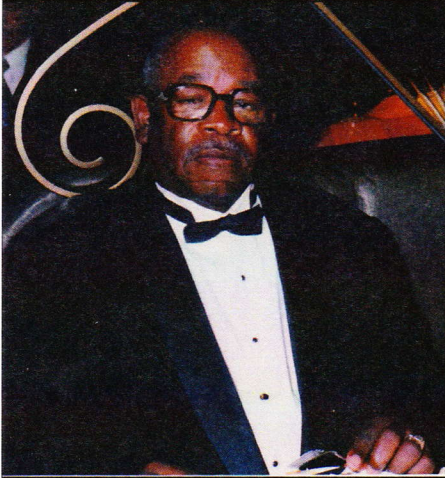
This gathering is to celebrate the life of my Father, Daniel Smith, Sr., whom many of you called Smitty. I just called him dad or Pops. It's ironic that there are 4 generations present, yet everyone called him not great grandpa or great great grandpa, but simply grandpa. He impacted so many lives, that his extended family continuously grew. How he remembered all of their names and birthdays is a feat I will never comprehend. Looking out at all the faces, it's easy to see the vast impact one man can have. The life of my father is an example of true sacrifice, devotion, selflessness and support.

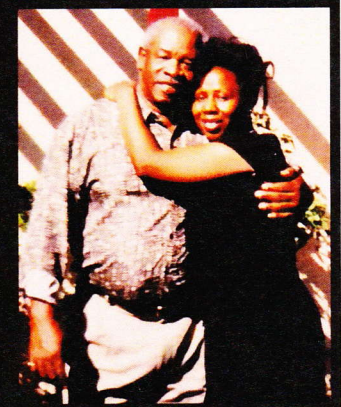
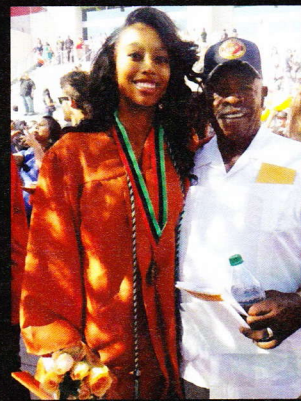
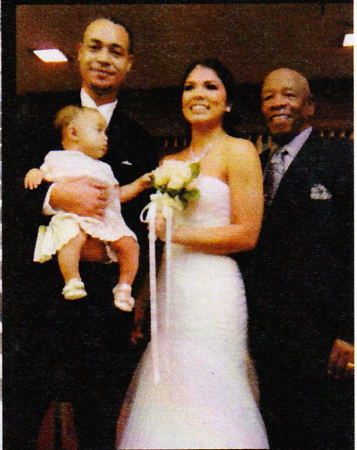
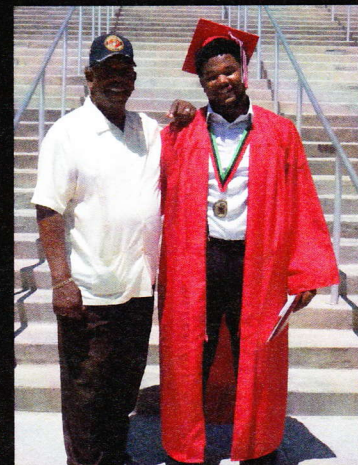
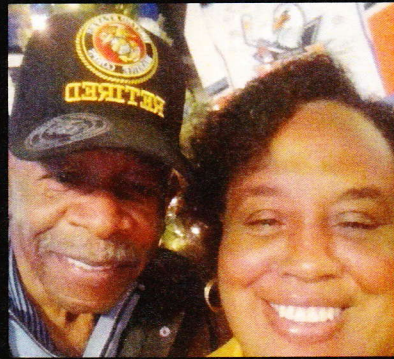
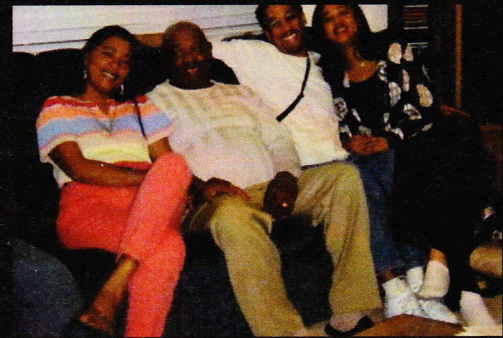
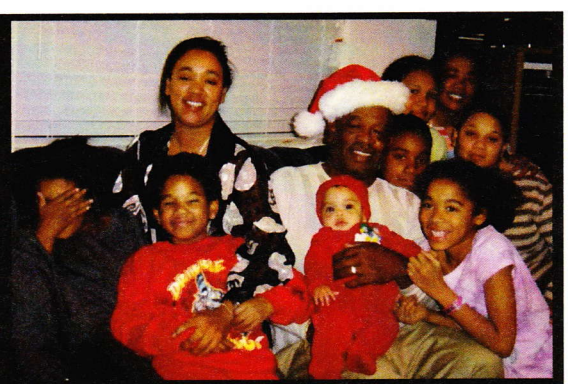
I have to admit, I never really knew the man I called Pops.

At least not until about 2 years ago around his 86th birthday, when I began asking him questions because I realized how little I actually knew about the man who's been there my entire life. It wasn't that I didn't wanna know. It was just assumed he would tell me what he wanted me to know about his life. I remember thinking as a child "dad has got to be the meanest person on earth." But as I reflect on my childhood, I realize why he was so mean. If I could give my dad one thing in life, I would give him the ability to see himself through my eyes. Only then would he realize just how special he was to me and how proud I am to say that I too am one of the meanest persons on earth.

He gave me courage and cultivated in me a sense of self pride which evolved into self confidence so that I could go into the world unafraid.

He gave me love unconditionally as he did with so many others. It seems his love grew as his circle of family and friends grew. I only just began to realize how much of an influence on my life he was. His subtle influence on me makes me strive to be just like him. Thank you for your endless love and support and for being my everlasting friend. I will always be your Junior and you will always be my greatest hero.





# TO THOSE I LOVE

If I should leave you, whom I love, to go  
along the silent way, grieve not nor speak of  
me with tears. But laugh and talk of me as if  
I were beside you there.

Remember the best times, the laughter and  
even a song. For I lived a good life while I  
was strong.

Continue my heritage. I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine  
through

My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all how truly I was blessed.

You were so good to me. There were so many  
things I still wanted to do, so many things to  
say to you.

Just remember that I did not fear. It was  
leaving you that was so hard to face.

We cannot see beyond, but this I know: I love  
you so. It was heaven here with you

I miss you all dearly, so hold out your chin.  
Until the day comes we're together again