



## Mr. Leroy Smith

August 13, 1928 - September 10, 2014

Leroy Smith, Sr. (“Smitty” as he was affectionately called by many) retired educator, administrator, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at Tuomey Regional Healthcare System of South Carolina. Born in Sumter, South Carolina on August 13, 1928, he was the older of two children of the late Dewey Smith and Rebecca Jackson Smith.

His father worked in the steel mills and his mother took in clothes to wash, but at an early age they encouraged him to learn how to read the newspaper.

Leroy enjoyed the benefits of reading. He quickly realized that to be successful in life, it was important to get a solid foundation that only education could provide. He wanted the same for his children. Leroy’s elementary and secondary training was in the public schools of Sumter. In 1945, he graduated from Lincoln High School, attended Morris College and in 1949 received his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology. Upon graduation, Leroy became employed in the Lee County School district as a teacher and principal at Sandy Bluff Elementary School; He sincerely loved being an integral part of the Lee County community, working with the boys and girls; as well as developing what became lifelong friendships. In 1951, the new Ebenezer Elementary School opened and he became the principal.

After four successful years of employment in Lee County, in 1954, Mr. Smith married a marvelous teacher named Nannie Duren Smith. In 1962, Mr. Smith returned to school and completed graduate work and obtained his M.Ed

degree at North Carolina College at Durham, in Durham, North Carolina. Continuing his career, in 1966, he became the director of the Lee County Summer Head Start Program; 1970 -1983, Assistant Title I Chapter 1 Coordinator and Media Coordinator; and in 1983 served as the Attendance Supervisor. Mr. Smith did additional studies at the University of Indiana and the University of South Carolina. After 41 years of service in education and contributions to the development of children, and to the community of the Lee County Department of Education Mr. Smith retired. However, his service to others continued.

Since the age of six, Mr. Smith was a dedicated member and leader at Emmanuel United Methodist Church. He served in numerous capacities in the church. He was president of the United Methodist Young Adult Fellowship, Chairman of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance, the chairman of the Pastor Parish Relationship Committee, Board of Trustees, the United Methodist Men, Administrative Board, the Sunday School Superintendent, teacher and Sunday School. For many years, Mr. Smith was responsible for the ongoing coordinating and continuous membership of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop #136. Most of all, he enjoyed teaching his Adult Sunday School class.

Mr. Smith contributed to social, civic and cultural welfare of the Sumter community. Some professional, civic and social affiliations include membership in the National Education Association, South Carolina Education Association, Lee County Education Association, Association of Education Communication and Technology, Political Action Committee, the S.C. Retired Teachers Association, S.C. Association of Attendance Supervisors, Lee County Media Specialists, P.T.A., North Main Community Club, N.A.A.C.P., Democratic Party member and poll manager. He was a Volunteer leader - Education Division of the United Way, Leader-Education Division American Cancer Society – Lee County and a member of the Morris College Alumni Association. Over 60 years ago, Mr. Smith joined the St. Paul Masonic Lodge

and served as a Senior Warden.

He was a warm, generous person who never met a stranger. He believed in family. He was very organized, and a stickler for following the rules and details. He was athletic, played checkers and believed in good healthy habits, such as no smoking. For several years, he walked three days a week with the Mall Walkers Club. He did his own yard work and house repairs. Also, he loved fishing, but most of all he loved hunting. For many years until recently, Mr. Smith was an avid hunter and member of two hunt clubs where he was the secretary and financial manger. Mr. Smith LOVED his children and LIFE! In addition to his parents and wife of 53 years, Mrs. Nannie D. Smith, he was preceded in death by a son, Arthur Girard Tips Smith, 2 grandchildren, Jackson Clayton, Alexis Danielle Smith; and a sister, Mary Smith Turner. Those left to cherish precious memories are two daughters; Doris Carolyn (Moses) Rice, Los Angeles, CA, Janet Smith Clayton, Sumter, SC and one son, Leroy Smith, Jr., Columbia, SC; seven grandchildren, Andre Rice, Monique Rembert, Jonathan William Fields, III, Alycen N. Clayton, Angelica C. Clayton, and their father, William Clayton, Malasia Tips and Shakira Tips; six great-grandchildren, Andre Rice, Jr., Danielle Rice, Kiandra Prymer, Clayton Grate, Mariah Fields and Ashlynn Field; a future daughter in-law, Rosalyn Frierson.

He also enjoyed a host of wonderful and special nieces, nephews, relatives and two special friends, Anne H. Connors and Pearline Boyd. He especially loved his god-children, Sonjan Johnson, Deanna Fountain-Breelan and Walter"Chuck" Wilson.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

SEP **17**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
421 South Main Street  
Sumter, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Leroy Smith*

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October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Mr. Leroy Smith, Sr. had always been a positive influence in our lives. We were very sorry to hear about his passing on September 10, 2014. At this time, we are praying for his family to continue to let God guide them through their bereavement. If there is anything we can do to help the family during the bereavement period, please let us know!*

*The Nesmith Family: Dr. Harry Nesmith, Jr., Gloria and William*

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**Gloria Nesmith** - September 28, 2014 at 01:06 PM

SH

“ It probably began, Janet and Roy, when I worked for the Lee County School District in 1973 that your father and I had offices in the same district building - he a Media Specialist, I the Title 1 Language Arts Coordinator. For some 25 years, we were part of quite a close fellowship that often ate, talked, and shared personally with one another. He would come by and check what our Hartsville United Methodist Church was doing, what their current budget was, and we would discuss the various aspects of our lives as United Methodists. Sometime in that long period, I met your lovely mother Nan (whose probable office exchange gift to me was a measuring cup and spoon collection I still use regularly) and also met both of you. I appreciated your Dad as a gentleman and friend who had even once invited my husband and me to a dance in Sumter. I so regretted losing the friendship with Smitty when I retired and moved on.

Our secretary, Merdis Bryant, has remained a close friend and informed me of your dad's death earlier last week. Unfortunately, I was committed with other activities the day of his funeral or I would have been able to greet you with a hug and brief personal reminder of our history. Both dear parents have now died, but what wonderful memories you must have and need to recall frequently. They were most proud of both their children and grandchildren. Know, too, that I've been praying for your family daily.

Sheila Mulcahy Haney

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Sheila Mulcahy Haney - September 21, 2014 at 06:37 PM

GC

“I Thank God for meeting such an amazing person as in Mr. Leroy Smith. He always told me how much he enjoyed hearing me sing. And each year at the Delta's annual sweetheart dance, I would make sure I would go and find his table and give him a big hello and hug. Such a sweet spirit. And all the time of knowing him, I discovered while talking to Janet that he and my late father shared the same birthday August 13. What a blessing!! Thanks family for sharing your wonderful father with all of us!! "Rest in Eternity" Daddy Leroy Smith, Sr."

*Continued prayers for the Family, Gwen Cofield!!!!*

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**Gwen Cofield** - September 17, 2014 at 12:42 AM

DC

“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you. Psalms 55:22  
Be encouraged, Debra Canty

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**Debra Canty** - September 16, 2014 at 10:40 PM

ES

“To Roy, Janet and the Family  
I'm deeply sorry for the lost of your Father.  
May you all find strength and comfort and  
know Dad is at Peace.  
He is now one of your Angels.  
Sincerely  
Ernita & Camera



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**Ernita Stith** - September 16, 2014 at 08:19 PM

MC

“ Thinking of you while sending this prayer, asking God to keep family members and friends in His care.  
With Deepest Sympathy,  
Mae R. Cook & Geneieve Cook

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**Mae R, Cooke** - September 16, 2014 at 02:46 PM

PS

“ Pamela V. Smalls-Tolbert sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Leroy Smith



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**Pamela V. Smalls-Tolbert** - September 16, 2014 at 09:09 AM

SC

“ The Walker Cemetery Association Executive Board wishes to send our condolences to the family of the late Mr. Leroy Smith. He was a dedicated and faithful Contributor to the Association, and he will be surely missed. May you find peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sandra E. Cooley, Treasurer,  
c/o of the Walker Cemetery Association

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**Sandra Cooley** - September 16, 2014 at 08:01 AM

JE

“ I have known Smitty for more than 60 years and he was always the same kind, loving man. We the family members will miss him even if we didn't see him all the time. My love to his daughter, son, and all the grands.

*Juanita Duren Denson Edwards*

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**Juanita D. Edwards** - September 15, 2014 at 04:33 PM