

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE



SUNRISE
11-10-1953

SUNSET
05-18-2022

Mr. Billy Ray
SMITH

Service of Celebration

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Two O'clock in the Afternoon

Duncan Creek Baptist Church

Laurens, South Carolina

Reverend Dr. Derrick Barksdale, *Pastor*

Reverend Richard Aiken, *Presiding*

Miss Me, But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little-but not too long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me-but let me go

For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home

When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds
Miss me but let me go.



Life Profile & Legacy of Billy Ray

Mr. *Billy Ray Smith* was born in Clinton, South Carolina on November 10, 1953, to Ruby Watts Smith and the late Langester Smith.

He attended the public schools of Laurens County, South Carolina where he graduated in the Clinton High School Class of 1972. There, he met the love of his life, who later became his wife, Dianne Rice Smith.

At an early age, Mr. Smith joined the Zion Hill Baptist Church in Cross Hill, South Carolina under the pastoral guidance of the late Reverend James Gray. He later began attending Duncan Creek Baptist Church in Laurens, South Carolina to worship with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

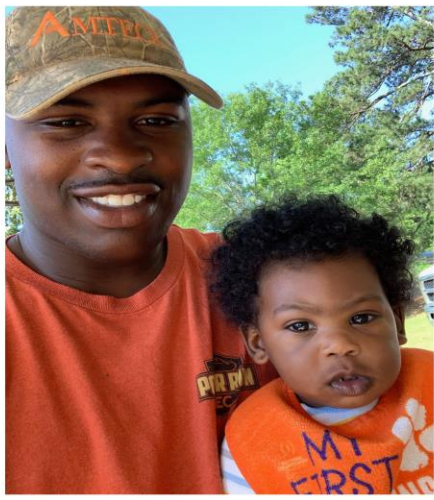
Billy began working, at an early age, in the textile industry. At that time, he became very knowledgeable about the industry and worked his way up to plant manager at Clinton Mills in Clinton, South Carolina before their closing. After the closing, he worked many jobs at different plants, but always found his way back to the textile industry. He was employed with Milliken (Gilliland) Plant in Laurens, South Carolina where he was a supervisor.

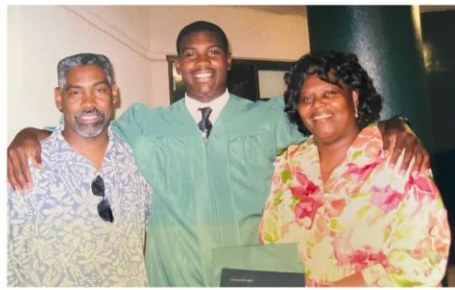
He took pride in his work and loved what he did. He received many accolades while working in the textile industry. His thoughts about life and working were, "Take care of your family and be the man you were meant to be."

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Ms. Floree Leake whom he adored.

Mr. Billy Ray Smith was called from Earth to receive his reward on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at Prisma Health Laurens County Hospital in Laurens County, South Carolina at the age of sixty-eight surrounded by his loving family.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories in addition to his mother, Ms. Ruby Smith; his loving wife of forty-two years, Dianne Smith of the home; three sons: Thomas (Shaniqua) Smith of Greer, SC, Corey (Avious) Smith and Justin (Devonne) Smith both of Laurens, SC; seven grandchildren: Joshua, Kennadi, Akira, Brooklyn, Daniel Mason, Garrison, and Graham; two sisters: Selmea Garnett of Jacksonville, FL and Barbara Smith of Irmo, SC; three brothers-in-law: Johnny (Martha) Rice and Richard (Annette) Young both of Clinton, SC, and Nathaniel (Elizabeth) Williams of New Haven, MI; three sisters-in-law: Feleshia (Angelo) White of Simpsonville, SC and Shon (Fred) Richardson of Gray Court, SC; a special aunt, Johnnie Vee Brown of Clinton, SC; two childhood friends: Grady Boyd of Spartanburg, SC and Archie Hill of Clinton, SC; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.





Service of Remembrance

Reverend Richard Aiken, *Presiding*

Prelude.....	
Processional.....	Clergy and Family
Final Viewing.....	Family and Friends
Selection.....	Duncan Creek Baptist Church Praise Team
Scripture Reading	
OLD TESTAMENT.....	Minister Darlene Meyers
NEW TESTAMENT.....	Minister Ernest Rice, Jr.
Prayer of Consolation.....	Reverend Dr. Johnny L. Johnson
Selection.....	Duncan Creek Baptist Church Praise Team
Remarks.....	Deacon George Casey, <i>Church Family</i> Mr. John Willie Watts, <i>Classmate</i>
Family Tribute	Justin Smith, <i>Son</i>
Poem	Mrs. Beverly Shelton <i>"A Letter to My Husband"</i>
Acknowledgement	Sanders-Thompson Mortuary
Selection.....	Duncan Creek Baptist Church Praise Team
Words of Comfort.....	Reverend Dr. Derrick Barksdale, <i>Pastor</i>
Closing Prayer.....	Reverend Richard Aiken
Recessional	
Committal Service	
Prayer, Committal, and Benediction.....	Graveside

Interment

Duncan Creek Baptist Church Cemetery
Clinton South Carolina

Don't Cry For Me

Don't cry for me. I will be okay.
Heaven is my home now, and this is where I'll stay.

Don't cry for me. I'm where I belong.
I want you to be happy and try to stay strong.

Don't cry for me. It was just my time,
But I will see you someday on the other side.

Don't cry for me. I am not alone.
The angels are with me to welcome me home.

Don't cry for me, for I have no fear.
All my pain is gone, and Jesus took my tears.

Don't cry for me. This is not the end.
I'll be waiting here for you when we meet again.



Honorary Escorts

Clinton High School Class of 1972

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Casket Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

Perhaps you visited, you called, you prayed a prayer,
or we were in your thoughts; whichever, we thank you.

It is our prayer that God bless you all for your many
expressions of concern and sympathy shown to us.

We would also like to give a special thank you to the staff of
Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital, Prisma Health Laurens
County Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, and Amedisys Home Health Care.

Your kindness and support will always remain in our hearts.

In loving memory of Mr. Billy Ray Smith, thank you all.

~~ *The Family* ~~



Sanders-Thompson Mortuary, LLC

Caring for The Family

Let the Final Touch be a Gentle and Memorable One

1235 South Bell Street
Clinton, South Carolina 29325
(864) 833-0271

Online Condolences: sandersthompsonfuneralservice.com

"The choice for those who care."