



Captain William Timothy Smith

January 25, 1952 - March 12, 2019

Capt. William Timothy Smith , USAF (Ret.)

William Timothy Smith, alias “Sugar Bear,” was born the son of David Smith, Jr. and Essie Lee Harrison Smith on January 28, 1952 in Lafayette, Louisiana. He was the third sibling of this union. After a substantial illness which became obvious in October 2018, William responded to God’s call on March 12, 2019 when he said goodbye to his family and friends and entered into eternal rest. His final days were spent in Warner Robins, Georgia.

William was a precocious child who stood apart from his peers at an early age. He was a people-person who found joy and laughter in many things, especially playing practical jokes on his family and friends even through adulthood. As a child, William loved sports and enjoyed playing baseball in his neighborhood. He attended both elementary and high school at J.S. Clark in Opelousas, Louisiana. After integration occurred, he attended newly segregated Opelousas Senior High School where he completed his secondary education. Upon graduating, William attended Grambling State University and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in biology.

William was dedicated to his career. He enlisted in the Army where he served for four years, then joined the Air Force and served for sixteen years reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His career gave him the opportunity to travel extensively around the world. Germany was one of his favorite sites.

William loved his family, especially his mother. He made frequent trips to

Opelousas to make sure that Essie Lee, or “Ms. Mitchell” as he called her, was content, especially when she became a resident of Heritage Manor Nursing Home. One of his greatest joys was planning an Opelousas Family Reunion to enjoy talking and joking with relatives, traveling, playing basketball, and loved running. Upon each visit home, he looked forward to eating his brother-in-law Carroll’s outstanding barbecue. Most people will remember him as a generous, free-spirited individual. William was dedicated to his family and grandchildren who he adored.

He was preceded in death by his father, David Smith, Jr., his stepfather, Doris Mitchell, Sr.; his brother, Curtis Mitchell; and his sister, Thealois Timothy Leslie.

William is survived by his wife, Mila of Warner Robins; children, Jabbar Smith (Louisa) of Metairie, Louisiana, Lee Smith of Santa Monica, California, Ange Hall (Jared) of Olney, Maryland, grandchildren, Kassidy Smith, Ahmya and Craig Hall, Marley Smith, and Lillian Kastner; mother, Essie Lee Mitchell of Opelousas, Louisiana; sisters, Ruth Smith of Nashville, Tennessee, Shirley Hicks of Eunice, Louisiana, Dr. Julia Darbonne (Carroll) and Cheryl Guillory, both of Opelousas, Louisiana, Pauline Lewis of Lafayette, Louisiana, Mary Christine Greene (Nathaniel) of Houston, Texas, Shawn Smith of Arizona, and Crystal Smith of Maryland; brothers, David Smith of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ronald Mitchell (Valynda) of Cincinnati, Ohio, Claudius Smith (Kinatta) of Houston, Texas, Kenneth Smith (Beverley) of Maryland, and Chrispin Smith of Denmark; uncle, Dr. C. Fin Smith of Morgan City, Louisiana; a host of nieces and nephews, other relatives and special friends; godchildren, Jasmine Darbonne, Lake Charles, Louisiana and Felix Reinhardt.

Memorial Services will be Saturday, March 23, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Marks United Methodist Church, 534 S Market Street, Opelousas LA 70570-5030. Rev. Junius Egby, Jr., Pastor of St. Marks United Methodist Church will

officiate the Celebration of Life.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully suggests memorial donations be given in memory of William to the American Brain Tumor Association, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Ste. 550, Chicago, IL 60631, <https://www.abta.org>.

Tribute Wall



“ *Captain William Timothy Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Dear Mr. Smith,*

god bless you and your family. Thank you for being you :-)

Daniel Frantal

Daniel - March 27, 2019 at 05:03 PM



“ *Sharon Hicks lit a candle in memory of Captain William Timothy Smith*

Sharon Hicks - March 22, 2019 at 08:46 PM



“ *Your sis, Patricia Boyer & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Captain William Timothy Smith.*

Your sis, Patricia Boyer & Family - March 22, 2019 at 02:33 PM

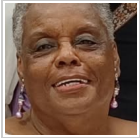


BW

“ *Becky Watson lit a candle in memory of Captain William Timothy Smith*



Becky Watson - March 20, 2019 at 09:15 PM



“ *To the family of William Smith we are hoping it will help a little just to know how much others care and how many thoughts are with you. With deepest and sincere sympathy to the family. William is out of his pain. I've known the family for many years. We grew up on the "Hill", we attended J.S. Clark. Our family bonded through the friendship of our brothers and sisters. To Julia and the family we love you all and we will continue to lift your family in prayers.*

Celina Richard - March 17, 2019 at 11:46 AM

BL

“ *Beverly Lewis lit a candle in memory of Captain William Timothy Smith*



Beverly Lewis - March 16, 2019 at 10:11 PM

HA

“ *From the Savoy family my his soul Rest In Peace*

Helen Amos - March 16, 2019 at 04:37 PM

VH

“ Vernon Haynes lit a candle in memory of Captain William Timothy Smith



Vernon Haynes - March 16, 2019 at 09:15 AM

DW

“ William Smith (Sugat Bear) has been my friend for more than 50 years. When we met and became friends in the 6th grade, we were inseparable. Lionel and he would come to my house and talk to me and my mom, Mrs. Chachere, for hours. When I had my spinal surgery, they would come to see me every evening and do homework beside my bed. They laughed , joked around and clowned for hours before they would go home. When we graduated and went our separate ways that relationship never wavered. We talked on the phone or met every chanced we got. When Bear moved back to the states, after his tour in the service, we would meet at the Bayou Classic, Opelousas for holidays, or when he came in town to see his mom. That laugh, the twinkle in his eyes and the “bear hug” he gave me each time we met, insured me the relationship we had in 6 th grade was just as strong as ever. That loveable “Sugar Bear” was a person I could always count on to be a friend with a heart that is true. I will always remember and love him. I am writing these memories with a heavy heart but God has a plan which includes Bear now. One day His plan will include me, too. Then I will see my friends again. Debbra Watson

Debbra Watson - March 16, 2019 at 12:47 AM

NG

“ I remember most when Lee and Anje were born. Both are the light of my life!

noreen graves - March 15, 2019 at 06:01 PM



Love brother in law

Joseph Ventress - March 18, 2019 at 09:28 AM



love you papa you will always be remebered as my father figure and mentor. fly high!

joshua - October 22, 2020 at 02:53 PM