



John Thomas Smith Sr.

July 23, 1942 - March 17, 2025

Mansfield, John T. Smith Sr., 82, passed away Monday, March 17, 2025, at OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital after an extended illness.

John T. Smith was born on July 23, 1942, in Louisville Ky. to the late Elizabeth Kilgore and Thomas L. Smith, stepfather, Alphonsa Kilgore who raised him. He made Mansfield home where he graduated from Mansfield Senior High School, and he continued his education in computer programing. He was a Notary Public.

John had many jobs, he was a cab driver, a cook at Manners Big Boy and an assembly line worker.

John never took piano lessons and played under the anointing of God. He came from a lengthy line of gifted pianists, musicians, and singers. John played for various churches throughout Mansfield. He lived in Michigan for a number of years and while there he formed a group that produced an album, he also played in Louisville Ky. He loved to preach the word of God. He became an ordained minister at an incredibly early age, he was a member of the Temple of Faith COGIC under the leadership Elder L.G. Maddox. He preached wherever he could to spread the gospel, later the Lord led him to start his church called Holy Tabernacle where he pastored for years until his health began to fail him. John served in the Army services for two years and during that time he had orders to serve in the countries of Okinawa, Japan, and British Honduras.

John met and married Shirley Bowdry and with that union they had two children. He leaves to cherish in his memory his siblings, Abdul Jabar Kilgore, of Oh, Roberta Kilgore, of Az., Patricia Kilgore, of In., Shirley (Edward) Faison, of Oh, Lillian Hatcher, of In., David Kilgore, of Ky., Craig Kilgore, of Oh, Jack (Elizabeth) Kilgore of Tx., Emma (Melvin) King, of Ga., Rita (Salone) Price , of Tn; stepsister, Susan Nichols; brother, Kenneth Smith, of Ky; a special cousin, Dorothy Carr; special caregivers Shirley Faison and AnnShalea Yelton; host of nieces, nephews and cousins who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents Elizabeth Kilgore and Thomas Smith, stepfather

Alphonsa Kilgore, children, John Smith Jr., Jacklyn Smith, brothers, Jerry Kilgore, Allen Kilgore, and Robert Kilgore.

The calling hours will be Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 11 am, at Small's Funeral Services, 326 Park Ave West, Mansfield, Ohio. The burial will follow at Ohio Western Reserves National Cemetery, 10175 Rawiga Rd., Seville, Ohio 44273.

The family has entrusted Small's Funeral Services with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Small's Funeral Services
326 Park Avenue West
Mansfield, OH 44906
(419) 524-0019
esmall@smallsfuneralservices.org
<https://smallsfuneralservices.org/>

Burial

MAR 27. 2:15 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Ohio Western Reserves National Cemetery
10175 Rawiga Rd.
Seville, OH 44273

Tribute Wall

DB

“ John T. Smith has always been a member of the Brooks-Brown family. I've known him my entire life- growing up in the church choir with him as our musician. I know he loved my sisters and brothers and me like his nieces and nephews and we loved him. He loved my mother and father like his sister and brother. We will miss you greatly. Take your rest dearest man of God and we'll see you on the other side. Prayers to his family and our family is here for all of you. 💔🙏

Damita Brown - March 26, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Thomas Smith Sr..



March 25, 2025 at 11:57 PM

BS

“ Our Condolence to the Family
Prayer & Love
Barbara Simms



Barbara Simms - March 24, 2025 at 08:45 AM

KM

“ I will never forget all of the talks that we had. I will miss you and our talks. I will miss you calling me also when you need help. May God give you peace. RIP John.

Kandy Marshall - March 21, 2025 at 01:18 PM

KM

“ I am going to miss you John and when I quit doing Home Health Care I felt bad at first but like you told me the last time we talked that you really appreciated me that really gave me more of chance in life. You also told me that you were proud of me for bettering myself although you miss me a lot. I will never forget the talks about the Bible and more. I will never forget you and the last hug we gave each other. I will always thank our Heavenly Father for having you in my life for about 5 years. May God be with you and your family. Now you can be at peace and I know that I will see you again someday. RIP John.



Kandy Marshall - March 21, 2025 at 01:13 PM

MB

“ Shirley, Pat and all the Kilgore family, for all of you I am praying. I am truly sorry for your sadness you have my sincere condolences. Hugs



Maryann Bridges - March 21, 2025 at 07:39 AM