



Jessy Rodger Smith

May 23, 1938 - February 25, 2020

Jessy R. Smith, a long time resident of Tacoma, Washington died peacefully at age 81. Jessy was born May 23, 1938 in Elgood, West Virginia to the parents of James Clara Gray and Thelma Emiline Smith. After the death of his mother, Jessy was raised by his grandmother Matilda Smith. After her passing, he went to live with his uncle St. Claire Penn (dad) and aunt Alma Penn (mama). In 1958 he graduated from Park Central High School in Bluefield, West Virginia. After graduating he entered the U.S. Army and served his country from 1960 - 1966. Upon honorable discharge, he settled in Tacoma, Washington and later met Aline Smith, and they were married for 50 years before her death in 2017. Together they raised their one and only son Kevin Smith, who was their pride and joy.

Jessy followed his uncle St. Claire's (dad) career of being a truck driver. He loved to tell all of his many experiences he encountered while driving his flatbed through the State of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska. He later retired in 1999 from Alaska West Express after 3 years of driving. During an interview he was asked what kept him behind the wheel for so long, Jessy answered "A friend says it's because I'm too lazy to work, afraid to steal, so I make my living with the steering wheel." He added, "I grew up with it. My dad was a truck driver, trucking has been a good life, I've enjoyed it."

Jessy accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age. He served as a Deacon at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, where he and his wife were faithful members for over 30 years.

Jessy and Aline were sponsors of club "Casanova Crew" for their son and his friends during the boys middle school and high school years. Jessy enjoyed reminiscing about those times spent with the boys who were like his sons. He was proud of them as they matured into men. Jessy worked hard and took pride in being a provider for his family. He absolutely adored his grandchildren and always went the extra mile to ensure they had what they wanted. Jessy was a straight forward person who would shoot from the hip. He did not hesitate to speak his mind, but at the same time he was a gentle soul devoted to

his family.

Jessy was able to fulfill his desire to go home to the Elgood, West Virginia homecoming one last time in 2019. It was a joyous experience for him to see family and loved ones from his childhood home.

Jessy is survived by his son Kevin Smith ("Omari Maulana") (Woodetta) of Fircrest, Washington, eight grandchildren, one great grandchild, sister Nedra T. Margerum (Melvin) of Columbia, Maryland, sister Joyce Penn of Bluefield, West Virginia and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and other relatives. Jessy will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Events

MAR 8 Visitation 12:00PM - 08:00PM
Mountain View Funeral Home & Memorial Park
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA, US, 98499

MAR 10 Funeral Service 01:00PM
Mountain View Funeral Home- Garden Chapel
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA, US, 98499

MAR 10 Graveside Service 02:30PM
Mountain View Memorial Park
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood, WA, US, 98499

MAR 10 Reception following the graveside
Mountain View Willow Room
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA, US

Comments



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Jessy Rodger Smith.



March 10 at 02:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jessy Rodger Smith.



March 09 at 08:43 PM



“ Reba Haden lit a candle in memory of Jessy Rodger Smith



Reba Haden - March 07 at 05:39 PM



“ My condolences to family. He will be missed. Always was a pleasant quiet person. He spoke of his love for being an usher at church
He loved Kristi Cream donuts, and his little dog. He loved his grandchildren most of all. Be of peace. He is in the hands of Jesus Christ who knows best.

Caroline T McNeal - February 27 at 02:37 PM