



Walter Smith

August 16, 1969 - December 29, 2025

Walter "Shay" Smith, age 56, of Gainesville, Georgia, departed this life on Monday, December 29, 2025, at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA.

Shay was born on August 16, 1969, to Ella and Walter Smith. He was a proud graduate of Gainesville High School, Class of 1987, and went on to attend Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas. Shay later served his country honorably in the United States Air Force from 1989 to 1993 as a Material Storage and Distribution Specialist.

Following his military service, Shay worked as an electrical technician. He greatly enjoyed hunting and fishing and was happiest when surrounded by family. Celebrating holidays and spending time with loved ones brought him immense joy.

Shay was preceded in death by his paternal and maternal grandparents.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving parents, Ella and Walter Smith; his brother, Dante (Nicole) Smith; and his sister, Tosha Smith. He is also survived by his sons, Michael (Amanda) Harris, Kenneth Richardson, James Copeny Jr., and Kamani Copeny; his daughters, Danelle Neal and Ayanna Harmon; and twelve grandchildren, including his special grandson, Zyon "Lil Man"

Barrett. He also leaves a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends, as well as his special friend, Anita Haynes and best friend Gene Lipscomb.

Shay will be remembered for his love of family, his service to his country, and the lasting impact he made on all who knew him.

Cemetery Details

Alta Vista Cemetery

521 Jones Street
Gainesville, GA 30501

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wimberly Funeral Home
325 Summitt St SE
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 536-3251
info@wimberlyjackson.com
<https://www.wimberlyjacksonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul United Methodist Church
705 Summit St.
Gainesville, GA 30501

Tribute Wall

AW

“ *Arieon Wilmont lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith* ”



Arieon Wilmont - January 08 at 12:28 PM

CB

“ *Cynetia Banks lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith* ”



Cynetia Banks - January 06 at 10:26 PM

ES

“ *Elaine Sims sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith* ”



Elaine Sims - January 04 at 04:22 PM

CH

“ I knew Mr. Smith when I worked at the YMCA. He'd always stop and speak to me about any and everything. He'd also check on me due to being pregnant. He loved his children and grandchildren. He talked about them all of the time. I wish the family peace and comfort during this time.



Christen Lott Hunte - January 04 at 01:01 PM

CN

“ Charline Niles sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith



Charline Niles - January 03 at 10:03 PM

CH

“ Charline sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith



Charline - January 03 at 09:57 PM



“ My condolences 🙏

Stacy Long - January 03 at 03:22 PM

HH

“ *Condolences to the Smith Family*



Herman & Sandra Hodo - January 03 at 02:10 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Wilkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



Barbara Wilkins - January 03 at 10:51 AM

SM

“ *Sending hugs and love. Praying for strength, comfort and peace to the Smith family during this difficult time.*



Shelia McAllister - January 03 at 10:14 AM

DC

“ *Deborah Collins sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



Deborah Collins - January 02 at 08:50 PM

DC

R.I.P. 🕯️ 🌸

Deborah Collins - January 02 at 08:51 PM

CC

“ CHERYL CASTLEBERRY lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith



CHERYL CASTLEBERRY - January 02 at 05:13 PM

JM

“ Joyce Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith



Joyce Mitchell - January 02 at 01:05 PM

JH

“ John J Heilman sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith



John J Heilman - January 02 at 08:37 AM

TJ

“ Toni Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith



Toni Johnson - January 02 at 06:47 AM

TJ

“ Toni Johnson lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith



Toni Johnson - January 02 at 06:47 AM

SW

“ Sherard & Quisha Williams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Smith.

Sherard & Quisha Williams - January 01 at 11:30 PM

SW

“ Sherard & Quisha Williams purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Walter Smith.



Sherard & Quisha Williams - January 01 at 11:30 PM



“ *Kimbler Hunter Pena sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



Kimbler Hunter Pena - January 01 at 08:36 PM

RH

“ *Regina Harris sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



Regina Harris - January 01 at 07:07 PM

GM

“ *Gloria Maddox sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



Gloria Maddox - January 01 at 04:42 PM

KS

“ *Kimberly Sims sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



kimberly sims - January 01 at 04:33 PM

YF

“ Your SKF Friends & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Walter Smith.



Your SKF Friends & Family - January 01 at 03:39 PM

GM

“ Guiding Light Ministries planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Smith.

Guiding Light Ministries - January 01 at 02:11 PM

GM

“ Guiding Light Ministries purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Walter Smith.



Guiding Light Ministries - January 01 at 02:11 PM

CH

“ Big cousin, or should I say big brother..! You know you will forever remain in my heart..! U wouldn't let a week go by without checking on me our relationship was definitely one of a kind cause id be telling you to take care of yourself and you'd be telling me the same thing.... But neither of us listened lol.! I will miss you dearly. I hate I missed that last call you made to me on Christmas Eve and I didn't get chance to answer cause I was asleep will always hurt to my soul!! And the message you left was something only you'd say!! Lol!! God has a true and beautiful soul belong side him now!! My favorite cousin/brother I love you!! Always 💔😭🙏



Charlotte Holmes - January 01 at 01:56 PM

MC

“ Michelle Cox-Norman lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith



Michelle Cox-Norman - January 01 at 01:23 PM

SH

“ Shay was affectionately known as 'the Ambassador of the Smith Family' because he was so diligent in ensuring family stayed together. I will miss our talks, his ability to tell to a good story, his visits and his presents. Rest in peace cousin. You will forever remain in my heart. The Pelliccia Family

Shirelle - January 01 at 01:12 PM

SH

“ *Shirelle lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith*



Shirelle - January 01 at 01:11 PM

ER

“ *Elisa Bonds Ratliff sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



Elisa Bonds Ratliff - January 01 at 12:40 PM

WT

“ *Wanda Tabor-Jenkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith*



Wanda Tabor-Jenkins - January 01 at 11:25 AM

MM

“ *Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith*



Mary Moore - January 01 at 04:14 AM



“ Dorothy Bolden lit a candle in memory of Walter Smith



Dorothy Bolden - January 01 at 12:54 AM



“ Deon Silas Turner sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter Smith



Deon Silas Turner - December 31, 2025 at 10:31 PM



My Condolence to the Smith family. R.I.P Cuz

Deon Silas Turner - December 31, 2025 at 10:35 PM