

VETERAN NEAT W. SMITH, JR. was born February 28, 1954, in Sumter County, Georgia to the parentage of the late Mr. Neet W. Smith, Sr. and Mrs. Vernetta Smith who survives. He was the first of nine children. He received his education in the public schools of Americus, GA and graduated in June 1972 from Americus High School, at which time he was bestowed the title of Mr. AHS and served as Senior Class Secretary. He excelled in athletics and played quarterback and defensive end for the Americus High School Panthers football team.

After graduating from high school, Neat entered the United States Air Force and served his country from April 5, 1973 to November 1, 1982. He achieved the rank of SSGT and his awards and accomplishments included: Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and Air Force Overseas Ribbon.

He loved his family and filled in many gaps after the death of our father. After serving time in the military, he became employed with Davidson's Rubber Company for 20 plus years and served in many capacities. He was later employed with TSSR and worked there for several years.

He leaves to cherish his memories: our mother, Mrs. Vernetta Smith, Americus, GA; one daughter, Ms. Norma Smith, Puglia, Italy; two grandchildren, Gabriele Di Molfetta and Ginevra Elia Smith, both of Puglia, Italy; four brothers: Mr. David Smith, Atlanta, GA; Mr. Benjamin (Penny) Smith, Jonesboro, GA; Mr. Victor Smith, Atlanta, GA and Mr. Timothy (Emma) Smith, Louisville, GA; four sisters: Ms. Yvonne Smith, Americus, GA; Mrs. Brenda (Clyde) Bradley, Midland, GA; Mrs. Sondra (Jeff) Tillman, Riverdale, GA and Ms. Wanda Smith, Americus, GA; an aunt, Ms. Ora Lee Hurley, Americus, GA; his nieces: Mrs. Natavia (Broderick) Hawkins, Winder, GA; Mrs. Camille (Tom) Guy, Cincinnati, OH; Ms. Nacole Smith, Columbus, GA; Ms. Elizabeth Smith, Louisville, GA; Ms. Kayla Bradley, Midland, GA and Alana Tillman, Riverdale, GA; his nephews: Mr. Wilbert Gilford, Jr. Smyrna, GA; Mr. Timothy Smith II, Louisville, GA; Mr. Vontravis Monts, Douglasville, GA and Mr. Kelby Smith, Troy, AL; his great nieces: Trinity Hawkins, Winder, GA; Chloe Guy, Cincinnati, OH and Madison Hawkins, Winder, GA; his great nephews: Cameron Guy and Caleb Guy, both of Cincinnati, OH and Judah Smith, Augusta, GA; host of cousins and other relatives survive.