

Remembering His Life

*A smile for all, a heart of gold
One of the finest this world could hold
Never selfish, always kind
These are the memories he leaves behind...*

Mr. James Ray Smyre Jr., 54, was born in Iredell County on July 29, 1968, to the late James Ray Smyre and Carolyn Keaton Smyre Jones. He entered into eternal rest on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at Iredell Memorial Hospital, Statesville, N.C..

James was a graduate of Statesville Senior High School class of 1986. He enjoyed basketball and football and his favorite teams were the UNC Tarheels and the Tennessee Titans.

In addition to his parents, James Ray Smyre and Carolyn Keaton Smyre Jones, he was preceded in death by his maternal great grandmother, Estelle Keaton, who partially raised him; a maternal grandmother, Mary "Lib" Keaton Mills Black; one aunt, Aunt Deborah "Debbie" Keaton; Steven Jones, and one uncle, Clinton "Clint" Mills, Jr..

James leaves to cherish the memory of his life, his wife, Yvette Davis Smyre, his stepchildren, Madeline Williams and James Williams, both of Harrisburg, Pa.; mother-n-law, Madeline Washington; his godson, McKinnon Kash Crawford, of Charlotte, N.C.; step-mother, Robin Gipson Smyre, of Annison, Al.; step-father, Johnnie C. Jones, of Statesville, N.C.; sisters, Stephanie R. Smyre, of Charlotte, N.C., Sonya Hayden, Pamela Jones, both of Statesville, N.C.; and Ashley Smyre, of Annison, Al; brothers, Gary Jones, Phillip Mikal Smyre, of Annison, Al., Ronald "Stump" (Sonia Connor) Turner, of Statesville, N.C.; aunts, Margaret (Charles) Neal, and Margaret Ritter, both of Statesville, N.C., and Cynthia Diane Mills, of Harrisburg, Pa.; uncles, Larry (Valarie) Keaton, Harvey Mathis, and Joseph Redman, of Statesville, N.C.; nieces, Kristin Wellman, Diasha Turner and Tiana Jones, of Statesville, N.C.; nephews, Devin Caldwell, Jaylen Caldwell, Brandon Morrison, Saliff Mott, Timothy Turner, Jr., of Statesville, N.C.; and a host of special cousins, other relatives, and friends.

*In tears we saw you sinking and watched you fade away
Our hearts were almost broken because we wanted you to stay
But when we saw you sleeping, so peacefully and free from pain
How could we wish you back with us to suffer that again.
It breaks our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.*

A Service of Love and Remembrance For

Mr. James Ray Smyre, Jr.

Friday, October 21, 2022

Rutledge and Bigham Funeral Home

Statesville, North Carolina

Dr. Virginia Lykes, Officiating

Overseer Sandra Forney, Eulogist

The Visitation

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The Processional Musician

The Moments of Sharing with Family

The Order of Service

11:30 a.m.

The Prelude

The Invocation Dr. Virginia Lykes

The Solo: "We All Want To Be Ready" Mrs. Kathey Everhart

The Scripture Meditation

Old Testament Deacon Theodore Waddell

New Testament Apostle Deborah Graham

The Prayer of Comfort Elder Stephanie Williams

The Selection

The Remarks and Reflections (two minutes please)

The Acknowledgments Madeline Williams

The Commemorative Presentation Funeral Director

The Solo: "Precious Lord" Mrs. Kathey Everhart

The Eulogy Overseer Sandra W. Forney

The Recessional Selection: "Never Could Have Made It"
Mrs. Kathey Everhart

At the Belmont Cemetery

The Gathering of the Christian Community

The Prayer of Benediction

The Final Departure

With Our Thanks

We, the family of Mr. James Ray Smyre, Jr., appreciates all of the condolences extended during our time of grief. Whatever you gave, a prayer, a call, a card or a visit will always be remembered. May God's blessings be with each of you.





**A Celebration of Life
for
Mr. James Ray Smyre, Jr.**



Professional Services Entrusted To:
Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.
 603 South Center Street,
 Statesville, NC -
 (704) 873-3611
 Visit James' online Tribute
 at www.rutledgeandbigham.com

*A Gift Given
July 29, 1968*

*A Gift Returned
October 13, 2022*

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