



CELEBRATION OF  
LIFE FOR

"DO NOT LET YOUR  
HEARTS BE TROUBLED.  
YOU BELIEVE IN GOD;  
BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.

-JOHN 14:1

ANTHONY  
SMITH

AUGUST 4, 1962-OCTOBER 23, 2024

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.  
HOUSE OF PEOPLES FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL  
446 MONTICELLO STREET  
HAZLEHURST, MS 39083



# No Tear Drops for Anthony

Hazlehurst, Mississippi is a small southern town centralized in the middle of the state of Mississippi. It is popularized by its neighboring geographic, and bleak economic southern history. Recently, this small town improved its over crowded health facility that better serves its population of some five thousand, or more, residents. To this end, on a mid-day afternoon of October 23, 2024, as Anthony Earl Smith lay almost lifeless in this small facility, shadowed by his medical team, the small town recorder in Hazlehurst, went into action. After struggling for several hours, and as his heart weakened, Anthony may have felt the loosing of the hands of his medical team at the center of his heart; and, he may have heard them whisper: "HE DIDN'T MAKE IT." However, this was the third generation of black men's tragic ending in Hazlehurst: Anthony's father (Sammy Earl Smith) took this exit close to two decades ago. His father's father, (R. T. Smith), took this same exit, and his father's father, (Grand Pa William) was the first of this known generation to take this exit. Anthony, like his immediate male forebears, maxed the national statistics for black men who lose their heart's strength, and leave their bodies weakened, way too soon.

Anthony Earl was born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi to the young and proud parents of Samuel (Sammy) Earl Smith and Barbara Jean Mitchell Smith on August 4, 1962. He grew up under the care, love and spiritual tutelage of his parents, his extended family, and his grandmothers: Thelma Daniels Smith (Mt. Sinai United Methodist Church), and Mabel Barnes Mitchell (St. James Missionary Baptist Church). All levels of his early education were gained through the Hazlehurst School System. His higher education learning was achieved at Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Jackson State University. He chose a career in Computer Technology, and worked close to thirty years within the Hazlehurst City School District where he helped build, and stabilized, the computer program until his retirement. Anthony was truly a community servant with a continuous big smile and a heart as good as gold. He was a tremendous asset to his Hazlehurst High School Class of 1980, where they modeled a program of love, sharing, and commitment of personal and community service among the needs within their small community. While Anthony had no biological siblings, he was significant in building family structure among his large body of maternal and paternal cousins, and friends. His aunt, Nola, and he, designed a sister/brother relationship that was a long-life bond. Upon Nola's illness, Anthony became her total caretaker which ended only at his death. His two male cousins, Capree Smith (DeKalb, IL) and Stephen Ruff II (Atlanta, GA) communicated as a strong brotherhood fraternity. Aligning with Hazlehurst High School Class of 1980, his father's sisters: Dr. Bettye J. Parker Smith (Atlanta, GA), Ms. Shirley Ruth Smith (Atlanta, GA), Alma Vaught (Atlanta, GA) and Mrs. Vavolyn Diane Ruff (Atlanta, GA)/Pastor Stephen Ruff), accepted adult parental responsibility for Anthony's care and well-being, in the absence of his parents. Considering the events of October 23, 2024, we weep because we love him; we are joyful because he left his heart with us; therefore, "NO TEAR DROPS FOR ANTHONY!"

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU. NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES DO I GIVE TO YOU. LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET THEM BE AFRAID.

-JOHN 14:27



# Order of Service

PROGRAM OFFICIANT..... SHIRLEY SANDIFER  
COPIAH COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

OPENING PRAYER..... CAPREE SMITH  
COUSIN

SCRIPTURE READING..... JERRY BARLOW  
HEAD ELDER, ORION SDA CHURCH

PRAYER OF COMFORT..... STEPHEN PHILLIP RUFF II  
COUSIN

OBITUARY ..... "NO TEARDROPS FOR ANTHONY!" ..... PEARL FATHEREE  
FRIEND/HOUSE OF PEOPLES FUNERAL HOME DIRECTOR

## REFLECTIONS

FRIENDS ..... HAZLEHURST HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1980

FORMER EMPLOYER..... HENRY DORSEY  
HAZLEHURST HIGH FORMER PRINCIPAL

FAMILY..... HONORABLE KENNETH RAMSEY  
MAYOR OF HAZLEHURST, MS

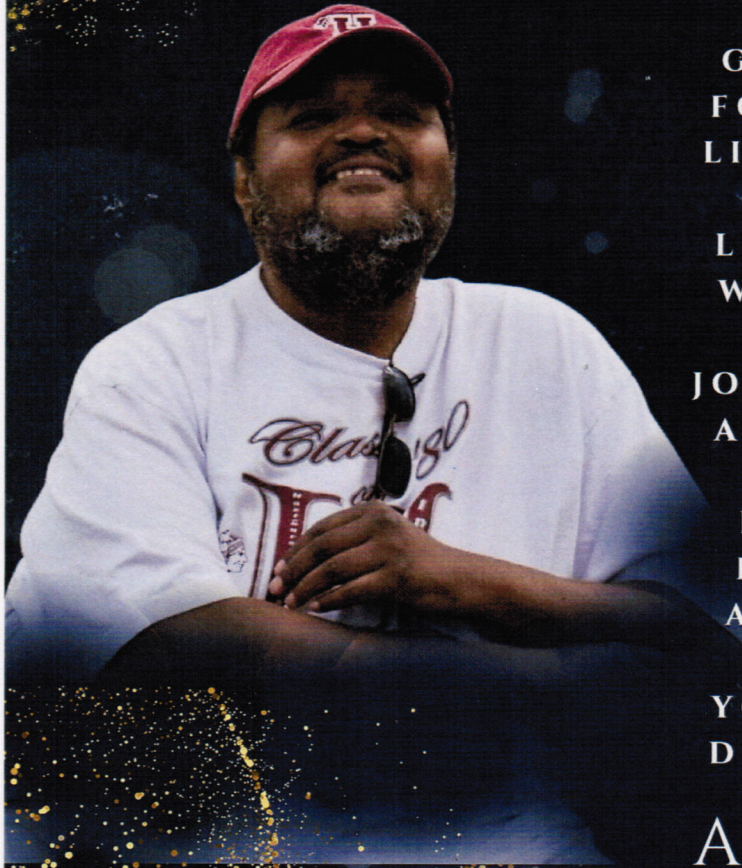
MUSIC ..... STEPHEN P. RUFF II

EULOGY..... STEPHEN P. RUFF  
UNCLE

REMARKS ..... DR. BETTYE SMITH  
FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF DILLARD UNIVERSITY

CLOSING PRAYER..... PASTOR STEPHEN P. RUFF





MISS ME, BUT LET ME GO.  
WHEN I COME TO THE END OF THE  
ROAD AND THE SUN HAS SET FOR  
ME, I WANT NO RITES IN A  
GLOOM-FILLED ROOM, WHY CRY  
FOR A SOUL SET FREE! MISS ME A  
LITTLE - BUT NOT FOR LONG AND  
NOT WITH YOUR HEAD BOWED  
LOW. REMEMBER THE LOVE THAT  
WE ONCE SHARED, MISS ME, BUT  
LET ME GO. FOR THIS IS A  
JOURNEY THAT WE ALL MUST TAKE  
AND EACH MUST GO ALONE; IT'S  
ALL A PART OF THE MASTER'S  
PLAN. A STEP ON THE ROAD TO  
HOME. WHEN YOU ARE LONELY  
AND SICK AT HEART GO TO THE  
FRIENDS WE KNOW, AND BURY  
YOUR SORROWS IN DOING GOOD  
DEEDS. MISS ME, BUT LET ME GO.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE FAMILY WISHES TO THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR VISITS, TELEPHONE CALLS,  
FLOWERS, GIFTS, AND MANY OTHER  
EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCES. WE ARE  
ALSO APPRECIATIVE OF THE HOUSE OF  
PEOPLES FUNERAL HOME AND ITS STAFF  
FOR SUPPORTING US THROUGH THIS  
JOURNEY. WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL TO  
THE MEDICAL STAFF FOR YOUR LOVING  
CARE ADMINISTERED TO OUR LOVED ONE  
DURING HIS SHORT ILLNESS. WHILE OUR  
TRIBUTES TO YOU ARE SHARED, WE RAISE  
OUR VOICES TO HEAVEN AND SAY, "TO  
GOD BE THE GLORY!".



## ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO

HOUSE OF PEOPLES FUNERAL HOME  
446 MONTICELLO STREET  
HAZLEHURST, MS 39083

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