

Order of Service

Prelude	Musician
Visitation	12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
Processional	Clergy and Family
Call to Worship	Dr. Benjamin Hinton
Invocation	Dr. Benjamin Hinton
Hymn	“Blessed Assurance”
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament – Psalm 23	Rev. Vincent Ross Pastor, As It Is Ministries Gastonia, NC
New Testament – 1 Corinthians 15:50–57	Rev. Brandon J. Smith Pastor, China Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, NC
Prayer of Comfort	Rev. Raymond Matthews Pastor, Saint Mark’s Baptist Church, Washington, DC
Selection	Erica Smith “There’s a Leak In this Old Building”
Reading of the Obituary (Silently)	
Cards and Condolences	Mrs. Toni Osborne
Remarks (Limit: 3 minutes each)	Mr. John Petty – Neighbor Dr. Schavez Tidwell – Nephew Grandchildren
Selection	Erica Smith “Lord Do it For Me”
Words of Comfort	Dr. Benjamin Hinton
Recessional	

Interment
Rose Hill Cemetery
Gastonia, North Carolina

Flower Bearers
Granddaughters
Great-Granddaughters & Nieces

Pall Bearers
Grandsons
Great-Grandsons & Nephews

“I’M FREE”

Don’t grieve for me for now I’m free,
I’m following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I’ve found that peace at the close of day

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life’s been full, I’ve savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one’s touch

If my time seemed all too brief,
Don’t lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

In Gratitude

The family of the late **Thomas O. Smith, Sr.** extends our deepest gratitude for your prayers, love, and support during this time of loss. Whether you called, visited, sent a card, prepared a meal, or simply held us in your thoughts, please know that your kindness has brought us comfort and strength that will always be remembered.

The Smith’s



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Celebration of Life for
Thomas O. Smith, Sr.

Sunrise: February 3, 1927 - Sunset: June 11, 2025



Service: 1:00 PM
Saturday, June 21, 2025

Tabernacle Baptist Church
Gastonia, North Carolina

Dr. Benjamin Hinton, Pastor



In Loving Memory of Thomas O. Smith, Sr.
Affectionately known as "Poppy"
February 3, 1927 – June 11, 2025

*"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord."
— Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)*

Thomas O. Smith, Sr., lovingly known as "Poppy," departed this life peacefully on June 11, 2025, in Gastonia, North Carolina, at the blessed age of 98, surrounded by family.

Born on February 3, 1927, Poppy was the youngest of four siblings born to the late Cooper and Roxie Smith.

He received his early education in Gaston County Schools before proudly serving his country during World War II. Upon returning home, he built a career grounded in dedication and hard work—spending 22 years with Central Yarn & Dye and another 10 years as a floor manager at Transfer Fashions. After retiring from the workforce, Poppy embraced entrepreneurship, continuing to exemplify his strong work ethic and determination.

Poppy was a devoted family man who cherished caring for and providing for his loved ones. He found joy in life's simple pleasures—gardening, hunting, and fishing. His gardens were a yearly testament to his labor of love, often filled with an abundance of fruits and vegetables he and his beloved wife, Dolly cultivated together. His passion for the outdoors was evident in the time he spent on the water fishing or hunting with his well-trained dogs.

He was a man of faith and wisdom who often reminded others that *"It's all in the Good Master's hand."* Known for his firm yet loving guidance, he never hesitated to offer advice or speak a word of truth, often punctuated with his favorite saying: *"What's gonna be, gonna be."*

Poppy was preceded in death by his parents, Cooper and Roxie Smith; his wife, Dolly L. Smith; his son, Odell Cooper Smith; his granddaughter, Jennifer M. Smith; great-grandson, Thomas O. Smith IV; his brother, Lesley W. Smith, Sr.; and his sisters, Nancy S. Garvin and Goller S. Tidwell.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and strength in his sons: Randy E. Smith, Sr. and Thomas O. Smith, Jr. (Patricia); grandchildren: Dexter Smith, Rene Burnett (Guy), Dawn Smith, Erica Smith, Randy E. Smith, Jr., Thomas O. Smith III (Carla), Toni Osborne (Terry), and Tawanda Goosby (Oscar); 17 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Poppy's presence, wisdom, and unwavering love will be deeply missed, but we find peace knowing he is resting safely in the arms of the Good Master.

