

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not here to see  
If the sun shall rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me,  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,  
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.  
I know how much you loved me, as much as I loved you  
And each time that you think of me I know you'll miss me, too.  
But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand  
That an angel came, called my name, and took me by the hand.  
And said my place was ready in heaven far above  
And that I would have to leave behind all those I dearly love.  
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eyes.  
I had so much yet to do, it seemed almost  
impossible that I was leaving you.  
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad.  
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.  
If I could relive yesterday, I thought for just a while,  
I would say good-bye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.  
But when I fully realized that this could never be  
For emptiness and memories would take the place for me.  
So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
for every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.*

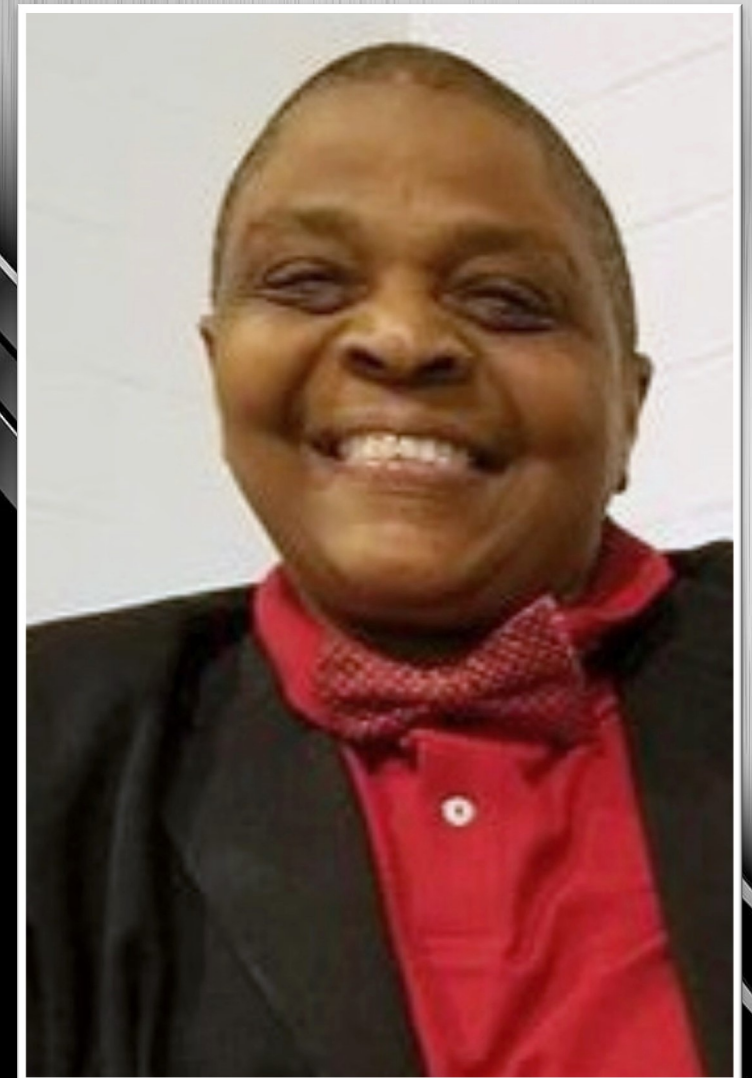
## Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep gratitude, all expressions of love and comfort in the form of cards, phone calls, visits and most of all, your prayers during this tremendous time of sadness.  
May the Lord's blessings be upon you.

The Family of Bobby Steve Smith

Service of Comfort Provided by:  
**Ebony & White's Funeral Service, Inc.**  
1139 E. Pine Street | Lincolnton, NC 28093  
Phone: 704-732-1041  
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# Celebration of Life For BOBBY STEVE SMITH



**Saturday, August 12, 2023  
12:00 Noon**  
**Providence Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincolnton, North Carolina**  
**Rev. Michael Hill, Pastor  
Apostle Preston Dean Smith, Eulogist**



# Order of Service

Rev. Michael Hill, Officiating Minister

Prelude	
Processional	
Call to Worship	Rev. Michael Hill
Selection	“Spirit” Evangelist Sherry Smith
Old Testament Scripture	Rev. Frankie Smith
New Testament Scripture	Rev. Gary Smith
Prayer of Comfort	Rev. James Smith
Selection	“I’ll Press On” Minister Debra Ransom
Remarks	Mr. Randolph Bynum & Ms. Debra Johnson, Class of 1972 Ms. Mary Finger, Friend Mr. Tyler, Littlejohn, Godson
Poem	Kaleb Russell
Selection	“Home” Evangelist Sherry Smith
Eulogy	Apostle Preston Dean Smith, Brother
Recessional Selection	Choir

Floral Bearers  
Nieces

Pall Bearers  
Nephews

Committal/Interment  
Forest Lawn Cemetery  
Lincolnton, North Carolina



## Reflections of His Life

Upon hearing the soft and quiet voice of his Master calling, Bobby Steve “Zeke” Smith transitioned from labor to reward on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at Atrium Health (CMC Main) in Charlotte, North Carolina. His earthly journey of 69 years was now complete.

Zeke as he was lovingly called was born in Lincoln County North Carolina on December 18, 1953, to the late Bobby Joe Smith and Mary Elizabeth Cobb Smith.

Bobby graduated from Lincolnton High School, class of 1972. He retired as a machine operator from Carpenter & Company. He was a member of Providence Missionary Baptist Church.

Growing up, Bobby was an all-around athlete. He played basketball in High School and Travel Softball during the weekends and summers. Bobby started his softball career playing for his father Bobby Joe Smith who managed a softball team in Lincolnton. While learning the game under his father and his uncles, Bobby eventually became the Manager of the Lincolnton Blues Softball Team in the early 70’s. His travel softball team played all over North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Outside of sports Bobby enjoyed cooking. He became the Master Chef/ Griller for every family event that was known. His passion for cooking started early in his life. Bobby and his father owned several food trucks. They were considered to have had the first Black Food Truck in Lincoln County. You may recall him being the grill master of “The Bus” that was located on Pine Street behind his grandmother’s house. You could also find Bobby at Tuckers Campground every year cooking. Some deemed his chili cheese fries as the best all around.

Bobby was known to have a big heart. He had a passion for caring and loving others. Outside of being a great husband, he was an outstanding brother, uncle, god-father, cousin, mentor and whatever you needed him to be at that time. He was also a wonderful God-Granddad to his four girls: Ania Cooper, Winter O’Connor, Bella Armstrong, and Eva Armstrong. Bobby’s beautiful smile, presence and personality will truly be missed by his wife, family and the community.

Those left to cherish fond and loving memories are his loving wife of 48 years, Sylvia Nixon Smith of the home; one brother, Apostle Preston Dean Smith (Sherry) of Iron Station, North Carolina; four sisters, Artie Smith Stover of Lincolnton North Carolina; Mickie Mary Anita Smith of Denver, North Carolina; Robin Denise Smith Littlejohn (Eddie), of Lincolnton, North Carolina; Javonda Boston of Hickory, North Carolina; godsons, Tyler Littlejohn, William Coulter, Xavier Parks; god daughters, Latoya Clark, Alecia Cates; sisters-in-law, Rayphine Finger (Herbert), Glenda Thompson; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Nixon, Jr. (Kasey), Thomas Nixon (Amy), Timothy Nixon, Calvin Derr, Jerry Flood, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.