



Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith

September 4, 1939 - February 15, 2020

Ellis Henderson Smith was born on September 4, 1939, the third of eight sons, to the late William and Bessie Smith. At his home, he very peacefully departed this earthly life on Saturday, February 15, 2020.

Ellis was educated by Durham Public Schools and graduated from Hillside High School in 1957. He furthered his education and graduated from North Carolina College, which later became North Carolina Central University, in 1961 with a Bachelor's Degree in Art. Ellis returned for his Masters in Education Media and completed that degree in 1964. He started his career as the Art teacher at Whitted Junior High School in Durham, then moved to Mercer County Community College until the family relocated to Levittown, Pennsylvania.

Later in his career, Ellis was Assistant to the Chancellor at Elizabeth City State University from 1973 until 1985. Ellis then served his alma mater, North Carolina Central University, in various leadership roles and finished his career as Director of Alumni Affairs. While in that role, he founded the Society of the Golden Eagles including their pledge and continued to be an avid supporter of NCCU in his retirement.

Ellis was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Tau Psi Chapter on the campus of North Carolina College in 1958. Upon his

graduation, he faithfully served Omega Psi Phi in various graduate chapters. However, he considered the Beta Phi Chapter his home, where he was honored as "Man of the Year" on numerous occasions and awarded his 50 Year Pin in 2008.

Ellis enjoyed hosting family and friends for gatherings, tailgates and bus trips for NCCU sporting events, hunting, fishing and bowling.

While at North Carolina College, Ellis met his soulmate Enid. They married and raised five children. Ellis is preceded in death by his three sons, Ellis II, Kenneth and Todd; as well as his brother Walter.

Ellis is survived by Enid, his loving and devoted wife of 56 years; two daughters, Nicole and Trecia; his grandchildren, Sable, William Ellis and Lillian; his brothers, William (Marie), Herbert, Theodore (Betty), Ira Q.(Esther), Lenox and Sylvester; as well as three Sisters In Law, Rosa Overby, Annette Nixon, Barbara Smith(Walter); and an abundance of extended family and friends.

A Service of Celebration has been scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2020, at First Calvary Baptist Church, 1311 Morehead Ave., Durham, North Carolina 27707. The family will assemble for a visitation from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, followed by the celebration service, at 12:00 respectively, with Pastor Fredrick A. Davis delivering the eulogy. There will also be an Omega ceremony at 11:30 a.m., prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the North Carolina Central University Foundation Incorporated, in memory of Ellis H. Smith. Gifts will be designated to the Society of Golden Eagles Scholarship Fund. Send gifts to the NCCU Foundation, PO Box 19363, Durham, NC 27707 or online <http://everyeagleeveryyear.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Calvary Baptist Church
1311 Morehead Ave
Durham, NC 27707
info@firstcalvary.org
<http://firstcalvary.org>

Omega Ceremony

FEB 21. 11:30 AM (ET)

First Calvary Baptist Church
1311 Morehead Ave
Durham, NC 27707
info@firstcalvary.org
<http://firstcalvary.org>

Celebration of Life

FEB 21. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Calvary Baptist Church
1311 Morehead Ave
Durham, NC 27707
info@firstcalvary.org
<http://firstcalvary.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *RIP Mr. Ellis, a former co worker at NCCU.*



Lois J. Pettiford - March 04, 2020 at 01:07 AM



“ *Jocelyn Faniel-Heard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith*



Jocelyn Faniel-Heard - February 22, 2020 at 03:49 PM



“ *My sincere condolences are sent to the Smith and related families of Mr. Ellis Smith during your time of loss. May God bless you all with His love, peace, and comfort now and in the days to come. From: Floretta L. Walls, former neighbor of Todd and Kenneth.*



Floretta Walls - February 21, 2020 at 08:51 PM

LH

“*"Bushy", It is so hard to say goodbye!!. May God comfort you in knowing that Ellis' spirit will live with us forever!-- that death cannot diminish the important ways your husband, father, grandfather, brother and our friend touched our lives; that grief cannot take away the good times shared; that sorrow will fade but memories remain --I pray that the times he shared - laughing, joking and giving fatherly advice will over shadow the grief and sorrow.*

Remembering him escorting you, "Bushy", and me and Toni to our Class Reunion Dance;

remembering him saying to me how you were taking good care of him, and jokingly saying "wants to tell me what to do", when I visited him.

My love and prayers are with you, as you face another difficult time in your life. God saw you there and he will see you through it; His love and power to heal our wounds are endless; and He is faithful.

As promised in our conversation last night, I will visit you when I come to Durham.

Love always

Your Classmate and friend

Lottie Godette Hayes

LOTTIE GODETTE HAYES - February 21, 2020 at 04:45 PM

CL

“*Cynthia Baldwin Lambert lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith*



Cynthia Baldwin Lambert - February 21, 2020 at 04:39 PM

CL

“ *Enid and Smith Family, Elvis and I offer you our heartfelt and deepest condolences and share your sorrow. I have known Ellis since childhood and have admired him and all that he accomplished through the years. May you always cherish your fond memories of him and find comfort in knowing he is resting in peace. We will keep you in our prayers.*
Elvis and Claudine Lewis

Claudine Lewis - February 21, 2020 at 01:17 PM

AR

“ *Archie & Minnie Rahmaan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith*



Archie & Minnie Rahmaan - February 21, 2020 at 10:20 AM

CY

“ *Sorry for your loss. Hold on to those great family times. You all were such wonderful neighbors and so kind to our parents and we appreciate and love you dearly. The Hines/Yates Family*

Cheryl Yates - February 21, 2020 at 09:49 AM

DB

“ *Dorothy "Dot" Brower lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith*



Dorothy "Dot" Brower - February 21, 2020 at 09:18 AM

DB

Fondest memories of Ellis and his dedication to NCCU and Durham!!

Dorothy "Dot" Brower - February 21, 2020 at 09:28 AM

IR

Lit a candle for cuz Ellis

Isaac Royster - March 13, 2020 at 07:58 PM

TW

“*Nicole, Sorry to hear of your loss. We are praying for you and your family.*

Tommy and Joyce Walker

Tommy Walker - February 20, 2020 at 11:53 AM

GW

“*Bushy, Rudy and I are so sorry to hear about Ellis' passing. We send our heartfelt condolences to you and the family. May God's comforting power strengthen you now and in days to come.*

Gloria T Williams - February 19, 2020 at 04:12 PM

FB

“ *Enid, Try to derive comfort from all of your many friends. We share your grief. I have fond memories of Emily and Ellis in preschool at W D Hill. Perhaps you will remember when Claude and I and my girls visited with you and Ellis when you were at Elizabeth city State Teachers College. All of our shared good times and challenges bond us in friend ship which I continue to cherish.*



Be well and know that you are loved.

Frederica

Frederica H Barrow - February 19, 2020 at 01:54 PM

MH

Enid, know that you and your family are in my prayers. God bless!
Mary S. Harris
NCCU 1973 Alumnus

Mary S Harris - February 20, 2020 at 11:40 PM

GB

“ *Heartfelt sympathy to the family of my friend and classmate Ellis Smith*
Georgia Thompson Brown
Alexandria ,Virginia

Georgia Brown - February 19, 2020 at 12:53 AM

DG

“ *Enid & Family, my sincere condolences to each of you during this time of bereavement. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Delores Cloyd-Goldstein



DELORES M GOLDSTEIN - February 17, 2020 at 08:21 PM

MW

“ *Please accept our prayers & condolences. The Womble family*



Marilyn Womble - February 17, 2020 at 04:43 PM


Emmett
Gill

“ *The Gill Family would like to send our condolences to the Smith family. We hope that our prayers, along with those of the entire Durham community, will uplift this family in it's time of need. Mr. Smith was an incredible asset, with an infectious spirit and we are thankful for the legacy that he graced is with. You will be missed, but never forgotten.... With love, Emmett L. Gill, Jr.*

Emmett Gill - February 17, 2020 at 08:41 AM

ED

“ *Harriette and I offer heartfelt condolences to the Smith family and all of their friends. Ellis worked hard for so many communities. He will be missed.*

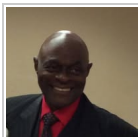
Eddie Davis - February 17, 2020 at 05:39 AM

RG

“ Rest in Peace my friend. I will always remember the many years we worked and had fun doing things for the NCCU Alumni Association. The bus trips to football and basketball games were always a lot of fun. You will be truly missed.

Ronald H. Gantt
Greensboro, NC

Ronald H Gantt - February 17, 2020 at 03:53 AM



“ To the Ellis Family:
Rest in Peace Ellis. I will always remember our walks home from Hillside after Track practice talking about our goal and future plans. We made the Westend Proud.

Floyd Watson, Jr

Floyd Watson - February 16, 2020 at 10:26 PM

JJ

“ The Jordan family extend our sincere condolences. May god continue to give you strength at this time.

Muriel and Johnetta Jordan



Johnetta Jordan - February 16, 2020 at 08:30 PM

RO

RIP Ellis Smith 🙏 For your family. Ruby A. Osborn

Ruby A Osborn - February 18, 2020 at 05:32 PM

NT

“ Rest in peace Mr. Smith.



Nannette C Turner-Williams - February 16, 2020 at 07:54 PM

PC

“ Rest In Peace...Ellis...I will forever remember how you could brighten up the room with your jokes and laughter...Rest In Peace...
🙏!

Patrilla Carson - February 16, 2020 at 07:53 PM

CJ

“ Rest in Peace,Mr. Smith...memories of your EAGLE Bus Trips will be FOREVER!!

Carleta Judd "CJ"

Carletta Judd - February 16, 2020 at 06:48 PM

RR

“ Sincere prayers and condolences to the Smith family on the loss of your love one. Mr. Smith was a man of honor and public service and will be remembered as a family man and good neighbor. Thank you for making this place a better place to live and work.



Rev. Richard Rodney Robinson - February 16, 2020 at 06:46 PM

DF

“ *Rest In Peace Brother Smith! We smile at the memories of fishing, fraternal gatherings and simply enjoying a great joke with you. May the good Lord watch over your family and we will continue to uplift them now and forever!*

*The Fitts Family
Maxine and David*

David Fitts - February 16, 2020 at 06:32 PM

PW

“ *Deepest condolences to the Smith family. He was a strong & kind man; brother & neighbor. RIP !!*

Preston Weaver Atlanta, Ga

preston d weaver - February 16, 2020 at 05:49 PM



VA

“ *The Pugh family would like to extend our sincerest condolences. May God continue to give your family strength and solace in this moment.*

Vanessa - February 16, 2020 at 04:45 PM



BE

“ *May the Smith family find comfort during this very difficult time.
may GOD be with you all
Barbara Webb Edwards*

Barbara Webb Edwards - February 16, 2020 at 03:54 PM



GK

Weat End forever, may the Smith family comfort during this difficult time. The Langley send condolences

gloria langley kearney - February 16, 2020 at 07:16 PM

KC

“*...I have known the Smith family since 1992. I use to come home with Nicole on the weekends and hang out at their home. Her dad would let me sit there in the den and go through all those beautiful records and play anything I wanted. The first time, I had ever heard a Nina Simone album and I was hooked. Thank you Mr Ellis Smith for being a great man, father, friend and secondary father to so many. Anytime he would see me and extend his arms for one of those great hugs. Wish there were more men like you. You will truly be missed. Sending my love to heaven!!! -kim caudle*



Kim Caudle - February 16, 2020 at 03:30 PM

CD

Sending heartfelt condolences to the Ellis Smith family. May you be filled with God's peace, grace, and comfort. God bless you.

Cassie Decatur - February 16, 2020 at 05:19 PM

PB

“*Pamela A. Bennett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith*



Pamela A. Bennett - February 16, 2020 at 12:55 PM

JF

“ Ellis has ALWAYS been as the old saying goes...."What you see is what you get". He is a loving husband wonderful father and true friend to our family. If you wanted to know the truth be careful what you asked him because he never sugar coated anything. But he would give you what able he was able to give; no questions asked. He loved his family!! and was devoted to Aunt Enid whom he lovingly called "Bushy". I could go on, but all of you already know. He is truly missed and loved.



John, Juanita, Ja'Lissa, Justin and Gladys

John Trotman & Family - February 16, 2020 at 11:00 AM

AN

“ Antoine S. Nixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith



Antoine S. Nixon - February 16, 2020 at 10:53 AM

NB

“ Norcott Erie Bell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith



Norcott Erie Bell - February 16, 2020 at 10:51 AM

EF

“ *Elaine Frazier lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ellis Henderson Smith*



Elaine Frazier - February 16, 2020 at 10:12 AM

EF

My thoughts and prayers are with the the Smith Family...Mrs.E., Nicole, Trecia and the rest of the family!!

Elaine Frazier - February 16, 2020 at 10:16 AM