



## James E. Smith

February 24, 1934 - November 1, 2018

James E. Smith, age 84, born in Wayne County, MS on February 24, 1934, passed away on November 1, 2018 at South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 4th at Memory Chapel with visitation beginning at 12:30 p.m. Interment will follow at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Jones County. Rev. Billy Dowdy and Rev. Jimmy Holder will officiate.

Mr. Smith served in the U. S. Navy during the Korean War. He was a member of Magnolia Baptist Church. His first job was at Masonite in April 1959 as a helper in the Laurel plant. He was president of Smith Brothers from 1979 until his retirement in 1999. Every Wednesday morning, he loved going to his mother's for breakfast. He also loved to play golf, stock car racing, and playing dominos, which he did every Friday night. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Polly Busby Smith; brother, Arthur Smith; and mother-in-law, Claudia Gatlin.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Janet Smith of Laurel; son, Greg Smith (Debra) of North Carolina; grandchildren, Jennifer (Chip) Crews and Tessa Smith; great grandchild, Ty Crews; and two brothers, Bobby J. Smith (Janet) and Jerry W. Smith (Lisa).

Pallbearers will be Chad Gilbert, Brian Gatlin, Chip Crews, Timmy Gatlin, Joseph Purvis, and Jared Gatlin. Honorary pallbearers will be Eddie L. Gatlin

and Wendell Blue.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund.

Memory Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery

10 Bill Windham Rd.  
Heidelberg, MS 39439

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 4. 12:30 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

## Service

NOV 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Mr. Smith's passing. I always enjoyed visiting with him at Martin Motors when he would come in. May HIS peace be with the family.

Dennis Henley - November 11, 2018 at 12:34 PM

SC

“ Janet & Family, my mother told me she had read in the paper about the passing of Mr. James...we are so extremely sorry...we have many fond memories of our times together at Bethel...may our Lord give you all comfort & peace...with deepest thoughts of care & love.  
Grover & Lessie Ree Clark  
Shelton & Rhonda Cooley & Family

Shelton Cooley - November 06, 2018 at 05:03 PM

PM

“ Janet and family, I can't tell you how sad I am today. James and I were best friends all those years. Miss Polly always said when she saw us walking together, she knew we were planning something. We were like brother and sister. I love him as my friend. I know he will be missed by so many. I just found out about him this month. Bobby and Jerry my heart goes out to you. Pansy McGill Mclean

Pansy McGill mclean - November 04, 2018 at 11:58 AM

MJ

“ We love you and your family and we are praying for you and your family.  
Love,  
Norma Jean Scruggs  
Melvin Scruggs, Jr.

Melvin Scruggs jr - November 03, 2018 at 02:18 PM



“ You will be so missed Uncle James. You were larger than life itself! We always loved when you, Aunt Janet, and Gregg came home for Christmas from North Carolina! So many wonderful memories! We loved the time y'all came to California and met our boyfriends and later husbands. Very blessed. Our prayers are with you Aunt Janet, Gregg, and all family. He was one of the greatest men that I ever knew. With Love and Respect, Elisa and Mark Steffan

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**Elisa Steffan** - November 03, 2018 at 01:12 PM

JE

“ Janet: We were very sorry to hear of the passing of James. Much love and prayers.  
Jim & Barbara Easterling

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**Jim & Barbara Easterling** - November 03, 2018 at 09:11 AM

PW

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all the family. RIP Uncle James. I will always remember you fondly, with respect, and admiration.  
Much love to all the family, Pam Smith Wade

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**Pamela Wade** - November 03, 2018 at 08:57 AM

PM

“ Sincere condolences to Janet, the children, and all the family. I know if Mom (Lois Myrle Smith Crocker) were still here on this earth she would be greatly saddened. We enjoyed seeing James and the other boys at the nursing home when both Mom and Aunt Polly were there. God bless. Pat Crocker Moss

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**Patricia Crocker Moss** - November 02, 2018 at 06:14 PM