



## James E. Smith

March 31, 1925 - December 16, 2018

James E. Smith, 93, of Laurel passed away on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at The Blake in Flowood. He was born in Laurel on March 31, 1925.

Funeral services will be on Sunday, December 23, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. with visitation beginning at 1:00 p.m. until service at Memory Chapel in Laurel. Interment will follow at Sharon Cemetery.

He was a combat veteran of World War II and self-employed for many years in the Laurel area.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Joyce Smith; son, Paul Smith, and sisters, Patsy Dobson and Gladys Sykes.

Survivors include sons, Steve Smith of Foley, AL and Terry Smith (Paula) of Brandon, MS; sisters, Etta V. Roney of Laurel and Dorothy Dobson (Robert) of Foley, AL; brother, Rayford Smith (Joyce) of Birmingham, AL; and a host of nephews, nieces, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Adam Smith, Daniel Smith, Samuel Smith, Adam McClain, Jeff Dobson, and Steve Smith.

In lieu of flowers make donation to wounded warrior project or similar organization.

To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Sharon Cemetery

4375 Sharon Road  
Laurel, MS 39443

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

DEC **23**. 3:00 PM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall

SS

“ My daddy was an all around good and fun loving person that I respected and looked up to my entire life, a good son to his parents , being real close to his mother, also a brave soldier , he was awarded the Bronze star, a terrific brother to his siblings and husband to my sweet mother and Granddaddy .

Mama played piano and sang at Sharon First Bapstist Church during her whole life from about the age of 13 , she was a devout Christian, therefore she entered the church thousands of times but you could count on your fingers the times Daddy went, it wasn't the message, but the frightful delivery of the message he was exposed to as a child by a screaming, finger pointing man in some tent revivals he attended without a choice at the time . But the two of them were kindred spirits and souls. He walked straight and narrow. But I know he is heavenly bound and will rest in peace with the ' love of his life' and soulmate forever.

A couple other people come to my mind that he crossed paths with in his life that he told me about late in life that I'm sure he would like to see in the afterlife, one was a good buddy he had in the army , one day in battle, his buddy was injured badly, Sgt. Smith went to his side, the soldier knew he would not survive, after a few words to each other, the last thing his comrade did, was reach in his pocket and handed him his chocolate bar, a precious item for them to be able to have then, he lost his friend, he died in the mud of a foreign country to war. Secondly, there was another incident of a person who was not exactly a buddy, only because he had never met him , an enemy soldier, one day in a battle he had found him in the scope of a rifle, and he must have looked at him for a moment, for when he told me about it , with pain on his face, staring straight ahead, he described him in detail, blonde hair , fair skin, red cheeks, and handsome , like Dad, probably about 18 years old, but it was then that the reality of war raised it's horrific ugly head. His purpose and mission of being there that day to defend his country and his life left him without a choice, and he must have looked at him for another moment after the shot was fired, because he described that in detail

*also , it hurt him deeply, for what he had to do, I think he will ask for understanding and forgiveness, given the chance, and that's only two events out of about five months of combat, there had to be many more, he was remorseful, he carried those memories with him for 75 years. I feel comfort in believing he will and can make peace, and they can be buddies again, for one, and finally to the other.*

*My mothers recording of 'Amazing Grace' will be played at his service as his final farewell.*

*His second son, Steve Smith*

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**steve smith** - December 21, 2018 at 02:11 PM

MS

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Mike Strayer** - December 19, 2018 at 03:47 PM

SS

*Thank you Mike, Steve*

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**steve smith** - December 21, 2018 at 02:21 PM

TM

“ PRAYERS 🙏 FOR THE FAMILY AT THIS TIME 🙏

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**TC MYRICK** - December 19, 2018 at 08:09 AM



*Thank you Mr. Myrick*

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**steve smith** - December 21, 2018 at 02:21 PM