



## Richard "Rick" Malone Smith

June 5, 1950 - February 12, 2023

Richard "Rick" Malone Smith, 72, of the Cleo Community, passed away on Sunday, February 12, 2023 after fighting a long battle with cancer. Rick passed away at home surrounded by his family.

Rick was born June 5, 1950 in Laurel, MS to Coy L. and Mary Carolyn Smith of the Pendorff Community.

Rick was a 1968 graduate of West Jones High School, then graduated from Jones County Junior College as an x-ray tech.

Rick married his loving wife of 39 years, Wanda Rushton, of the Cleo Community in 1983.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents, Coy L. and Mary Carolyn Valentine Smith.

He began a career working as an x-ray tech for Jones County Community Hospital. He then pursued a career with the Laurel Police Department as an officer for fourteen years. Later, he continued a career in Radiology as a Special Procedures Tech in Louisiana. Before retirement, he worked as Head of Security for fourteen years with Milne Home for Women.

In his spare time, he loved spending time with family and friends as well as fishing.

Rick was a beloved husband, father, brother, papaw and great-papaw. He was loved and cherished by all his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Wanda Rushton Smith; children, Stephanie Loftin (Randy), Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith (Kevin Polk) and Latrell Smith; grandchildren, Kristen Loftin, CC Loftin (Meagan), Josh Loftin, Harley Smith, Sydney Wash, and Leila Burks; great grandchildren, Hazel Loftin, Karmella Wash, and Mileena Manns; sister, Geneva Jennings (James); brother-in-law, Tom Rushton (Libby); and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery. Pastor David DeWease will officiate.

Pallbearers will be CC Loftin, Josh Loftin, Jarrett Stephens, Terri Lynn Smith, Ken Smith and Cory Smith. Honorary pallbearers will be Randy Loftin, Tom Rushton, BC Smith, and David Rushton.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery

838 Reid Road  
Laurel, MS 39443

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

FEB 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery  
838 Reid Road  
Laurel, MS 39443

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ Ricky was a great person, grew up in Pendorff although I was 7 years younger I looked up to him. Ricky's Mom and Dad were good people as well....wish I could go back in time to tell all of them how important they were to me...REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND

-----  
**Danny Craft** - February 22, 2023 at 06:52 PM

JD

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Rick and his amazing family. We worked so great together during the long days of Katrina . I am so sorry to hear of Ricks passing. An amazing friend . You will be missed.

-----  
**Joan Dupuy** - February 20, 2023 at 03:32 PM

KS

“ Wanda and Geneva, I never stopped calling him Ricky from my childhood. He cleaned our fireplace in the past. I saw him at Milne many times. He was a precious soul; always kind. May our Heavenly Father above comfort you and your family's grieving hearts as only He can. Kaye Sartin

-----  
**Kaye Sartin** - February 17, 2023 at 08:37 AM

JS

“ Rick was a great guy. Loved him. We grew up at Pendorff together, then, we policed together. Wonderful person...

-----  
**JIM SMITH** - February 16, 2023 at 02:15 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" Malone Smith.*



February 16, 2023 at 02:06 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" Malone Smith.*



February 15, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *He work at Milne and he was amazing and we all miss him very much.*

**Patricia Hock** - February 14, 2023 at 11:04 PM



“ *I have such precious memories of Ricky and his family as we all grew up in Pendorff Community. He was a special person and I know he will be missed by all who knew and loved. him. May God's grace and peace surround each of you. Wayne and Tommie Davis Lowery*

**Tommie Davis Lowery** - February 14, 2023 at 01:00 PM

TB

“ I’m so sorry for your loss of Mr. Rick. I pray for comfort and peace as you and your family navigate through this difficult time. Love Y’all! 🙏❤️🙏 Tamme Bufkin

Tamme Bufkin - February 14, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ Praying that God wraps his loving arms around you and provides you with comfort and peace in your time of need.  
Bridgette C Miller



Bridgette Carter-Miller - February 14, 2023 at 12:08 PM

DW

“ I express sincere sorrow to the family and friends of Richard "Rick" Malone Smith. I pray our Lord's love, comfort and strength for each of you. Wanda and family I continue to pray daily for all of you.

Dan West - February 14, 2023 at 09:13 AM

AB

“ Kristein  
I am so sorry to hear of your grandfather passing. Praying for peace and comfort for you and your family in the days to come



Amanda Braswell - February 14, 2023 at 06:37 AM

PB

“ Rick was a great man. We worked together and had some of the best talks. Every night when he came to he gave me a big hug and I would call him my big brother. He and Wanda were a great couple, and I love them both. He will be missed.

---

**Paula Bell** - February 13, 2023 at 06:32 PM

JB

“ joe buckley lit a candle in memory of Richard "Rick" Smith



---

**joe f buckley** - February 13, 2023 at 04:18 PM