



J.W. Smith

August 27, 1921 - August 10, 2011

Ripley, Mississippi--- Mr. Johnnie Willard "J.W." Smith 89, passed away August 10, 2011 at the Tippah County Nursing Home in Ripley, MS: Mr. Smith was born on August 27, 1921 to Wash and Mary Crawford Smith in Tippah County Mississippi. He was a veteran of The United States Army, serving during W W II in the South Pacific. He was a faithful member and Elder of the New Prospect Presbyterian Church where he had served as Church Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent and taught Sunday School for 33 years. He was Clerk of the Session for many years, a Gideon since 1976. He also served as zone leader, area coordinator, camp president, church assignment chairman and scripture chairman. He was owner of Smith's Barber Shop where he served as a Barber since 1951.

He is survived by: One daughter: Ann Moore (Marlin) of Ripley, MS: One son: Larry Smith (Debbie) of Denver, CO: Two grandchildren: Lisa Roseberry (Mark), Rick Moore (Michelle) all of Ripley, MS: Six great-grandchildren: Haley, Madison, John Austin, Addyston, Marlee, Hunter: One brother: Joe Smith (Maxine) of Ripley, MS: A very special caregiver: Addyston Moore of Ripley, MS:

He was preceded in death by: His Wife: Rivie Clark Smith: His Parents: Three sisters: One brother:

Pallbearers will be: Rick Moore, Mark Roseberry, Hunter Swords, John Austin Moore, Jerry Henson, Billy Clark, Al Stroupe, Bonnie Caviness:

Honorary pallbearers will be: Mark Bullock, Justin Bullock, Elders of New Prospect Presbyterian Church:

To send flowers to the family of J.W. Smith, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall



“ *J.W. Smith* ”

October 05, 2023 at 12:14 PM

“ I apologize for not paying my respects to Mr. Smith in person, but I did not realize he had passed away until today. Mr. Smith cut my hair for the first time and continued to cut it for the next 30 years or so, until I moved to Union County and it was difficult for me to make it out to his shop. Growing up at Walnut, my Dad would come by the school and pick me up periodically for us to make Mr. Smith's shop before closing. When I had a son, I was determined to make sure Mr. Smith cut his hair for the first time as well. My wife had the camera on ready as Mr. Smith worked through the twitches and gave him this first haircut. We always tried to send Mr. Smith a Christmas card even though I was unable to visit his shop in person after I moved.

I cannot really express how much I thought of Mr. Smith. We would discuss politics, church, and family as he worked. From various relatives we shared in the Hatchie area to reminiscing about Mr. Tyser and his shoe shining, we covered almost any topic. I could always depend upon him to give his honest opinion in any discussion. He was dedicated to the Lord and the work he did in his church as well as a Gideon. I know you knew all of this firsthand, but I stand in admiration of him as these traits are a rarity in the world today.

Most of all Mr. Smith would love to speak of his family and especially his wife. Many people have remarked to me over the years of the love and dedication he openly had for Mrs. Smith. I did not often see Mr. Smith express emotion. However, when his wife's health took a serious downturn and she eventually passed away you could detect the pain in his voice as he spoke of her. I do not know of a higher praise that could be given to a husband than the way in which he seemed to honor and love her.

I pray for you during your time of loss. Mr. Smith and his barber shop were an institution in Ripley. He impacted many lives of all social classes through his various works. He was a great man and I will miss him.

God bless,

Clint Stroupe

Clint Stroupe - August 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mr. Smith. My late husband and I had known him for years. He always cut my husband's hair. When my husband was really ill and could not go to the shop Mr. Smith would come to our home and cut his hair. He will be missed in Ripley. Ara Hopper Virginia Patterson (Daughter)*

Ara Hopper - August 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VJ

“ *Dear Larry and Ann and your families,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Vicki, Mark, Nan and David*

Vicki and Mark Johnson - August 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM