



John W. "PePaw" Smith, III

March 1, 1951 - December 13, 2025

John Wright "PePaw" Smith, III, age 74, of Milledgeville, passed away Saturday, December 13, 2025. Funeral services for John W. Smith, III will be conducted Friday, December 19, 2025 at 2:00pm in Freedom Church with Rev. Ralph Story and Rev. Tim Thomas officiating. Interment will be held in the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Monday, December 22, 2025 at 2:30pm. The family will receive friends at Freedom Church on Thursday (12-18-25) from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

A native of Milledgeville, John was born on March 1, 1951 to the late John Wright "Jake" Smith, II and Mildred Aileen Snow Smith. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Jennie Bell and Roy Medlin, by his wife, Wanda Jean Medlin Smith, by his son-in-law, Jonathan Brookins, by his brother, Billy Smith, by his sister, Patsy Smith, by his brothers-in-law, Andy Medlin, Ed Ketchum, Harold Smith, Willie Dunn, and Edmond Medlin.

John was retired from the U.S. Army, as an E-7 (SFC) and was a Mechanical Management Supervisor. His family (all four of his children) traveled with him through his enlistment, beginning in the Panama Canal Zone, to Texas, to Germany, to Colorado, to Texas, and back to Germany, through Kansas, and Alaska, before retiring at Ft. Stewart in 1991. Once retired, he came home and began driving cars for Childre Ford Nissan, which lasted for 30 years.

Survivors include his daughters, Amy Flury (& Sam) of Milledgeville, and Michelle Brookins of Milledgeville ; his sons, John W. "Jay" Smith, IV (& Angie), and Roy Shannon (& Tina) ; his grandchildren, Tiffany Johnson, Hunter Johnson, Jaylin (Blake) Smith, Corey (Shelby) Brookins, Ashton "A.J." (Jamie) Smith, Katie (Cody) Lumley, April (Michael) Screws, and Ashley Flury ; 5 great grandchildren ; his sisters, Marian Medlin of Milledgeville, Janie Dunn of Milledgeville, and Marti Pozzi (& John) of Alaska ; his brothers, Roger Smith (& Shawn) of Wyoming, Jimmy "Shorty" Smith (& Dawn) of Eatonton, Richard Smith (& Beverly) of Eatonton ; his sisters-in-law, Leone Smith, Bonnie Ketchum, and Sue Kitchens (& Tommy) ; sister in law, Sandy Lee; and numerous nieces and nephews. .

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that Memorial Donations be made to Freedom Church, 500 Underwood Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

Condolences may be expressed online at: www.williamsfuneral.net

Williams Funeral Home and Crematory of Milledgeville is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery

2617 Vinson Hwy.
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Freedom Church, Milledgeville, GA
500 Underwood Rd
Milledgeville, GA 31061-4176
(478) 452-7694

Funeral Service

DEC 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Freedom Church, Milledgeville, GA
500 Underwood Rd
Milledgeville, GA 31061-4176
(478) 452-7694

Burial

DEC 22. 2:30 PM (ET)

Georgia Veteran's Memorial Cemetery
2617 Vinson Hwy
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Tribute Wall



“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of John W. "PePaw" Smith, III



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - December 18, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ I am thankful for the opportunity of meeting John in my brother's Bible Study Class. His warm smile and handshakes are going to be missed by so many. I am sending my condolences and prayers to all of his family.

Sherry Mitchiner - December 22, 2025 at 07:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Military Honors



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - December 22, 2025 at 04:21 PM

ER

“ To the entire family of John, we are praying for you all during this time. He will be missed at Freedom a great servant always greeting everyone! May the Lord continue to be with you all! Eddie and Denise Renfroe



Eddie and Denise Renfroe - December 19, 2025 at 01:25 PM

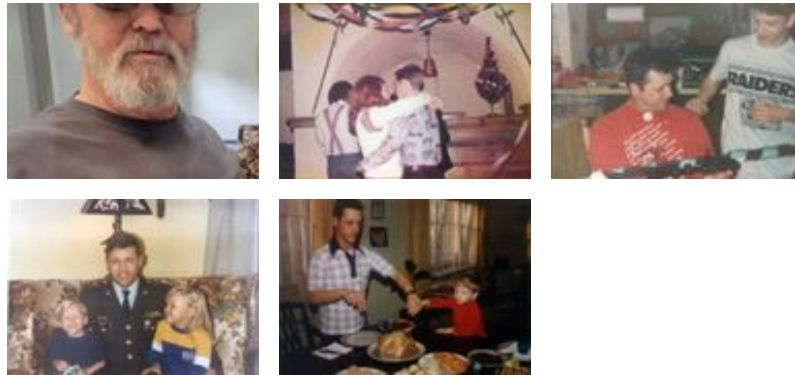
SZ

“ We are sorry for your loss! You are all in our hearts and prayers!

Sheila Zorens - December 18, 2025 at 02:17 PM



“ 128 files added to the album Life Tributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - December 18, 2025 at 12:54 PM

SK

“ Had the pleasure of knowing Johnny as we drove cars for Childre. He loved God, his family and friends dearly. Prayers and condolences for the family at this time.

Spencer Kelley - December 18, 2025 at 08:06 AM

LH

“ Love You so much PePaw.
You're surely greatly Missed by All.
Thank you for being a Special part of my Life
and touchy Heart, as Well as SO Many
Others.
Prayers for All the family and So many friends. Praying for Peace,
Comfort, Strength and Guidance.
PePaw is Now Healed and He is Dancing on Streets of Gold.



Lori Hendrix - December 17, 2025 at 06:06 AM

LP

“ Moe and I will be forever grateful to PePaw
for leading us to Freedom Church. We will
miss you so much.



Linda Paquette - December 16, 2025 at 10:39 PM

JL

“ John JoAnn lavender lit a candle in memory
of John W. Smith



John JoAnn lavender - December 16, 2025 at 01:21 PM

RB

“ Randy & Barbara lit a candle in memory of John W. Smith



Randy & Barbara - December 16, 2025 at 01:11 PM

BW

“ Will miss PePaw and all the smiles & encouragement he gave to me and many others during his devoted service at Freedom Church. He surely made a difference!
Boni Watkins



Bini Watkins - December 16, 2025 at 10:18 AM

LH

PePaw ALWAYSade a Huge Difference Everywhere he went and with Everyone he Met along life's Journey. He made Bonds and he touched Everyone's heart. I know he did Mine.

Lori Hendrix - December 17, 2025 at 06:10 AM

LM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Luther and Berta and friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.



Luther Minor - December 16, 2025 at 08:49 AM

JB

“ To the family, our condolences and prayers. Praying God brings comfort as you go through your grieving process. Hold on tight to memories that will last a lifetime.
Todd & Jill



Jill Blackwell - December 16, 2025 at 08:30 AM

JY

“ Michelle, and Family,, we are so sorry to hear about your Dad. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers during this time.



Judy Youngblood - December 15, 2025 at 09:05 PM

KL

“ Kathy Lafontaine lit a candle in memory of John W. Smith



Kathy Lafontaine - December 15, 2025 at 07:27 PM

TR

“ To the family so sorry for yall's loss. Prayers to the family. He was a very sweet man



TracyRoach - December 15, 2025 at 06:01 PM

DB

“ *Debbi Batchelor sent a virtual gift in memory of John W. Smith*



Debbi Batchelor - December 15, 2025 at 05:08 PM

DS

“ *My condolences to the family. Will miss his smiling face at church.*

Debbi & mark smith - December 15, 2025 at 04:07 PM

JF

“ *My condolences to the you all. We will miss seeing Mr. John at Herb's.*

Jason Foskey - December 15, 2025 at 02:06 PM