



James Thomas (Tom) Smith

April 11, 1950 - May 1, 2025

James Thomas "Tom" Smith, 75, of Hartsville, South Carolina, passed away at his home on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Tom was born in Anderson, South Carolina, the son of the late Charlie A. Smith and Hilda B. Smith. He graduated from Miami Norland Senior High School in 1968 and went on to serve his country as a Communications Center Specialist in the United States Air Force from 1968 to 1972. During his service, he was stationed in Tripoli, Libya.

After completing his military service, Tom pursued higher education at the University of Southern Mississippi, earning a Bachelor of Science degree magna cum laude in 1976 and a Master of Education degree in 1980. He was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in recognition of his academic achievement.

Tom began his professional career as a high school English teacher and later became a high school principal. He then transitioned into the field of nuclear safety, working with various nuclear power plants across the country.

Eventually, he returned to Hartsville and became the longtime owner of the Hartsville Skating Arena, where he built a welcoming space for families and young people for nearly 30 years before retiring.

He was a regular attendee of New Providence Baptist Church for as long as his health allowed. Tom enjoyed working outside, watching westerns, and spending time with his family. He was the kind of person who would do anything he could for others, but never expected anything in return. He will be

remembered for his quiet strength, deep loyalty, and enduring love for those closest to him.

Surviving are his wife of 28 years, Mary Munn Smith; his sons, Joshua Smith (Abigail) and Tucker Smith; his siblings, Mary Thompson (Bill), Barbara Blackstock (Richard), Joseph Smith (Gloria), and Elizabeth Smith.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Annette Smith Davis. A memorial service to celebrate Tom's life will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM at New Providence Baptist Church. The family will receive friends beginning at 5:30 at the church.

The Directors of Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home are honored to be serving the Smith family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Thomas (Tom) Smith.*



May 11, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Thomas (Tom) Smith.

May 11, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of Tom's Passing. Our paths crossed many times in numerous nuclear power plants. Always got along with everyone he came in contact with. He was one of the "good guys". Prayers for his family.*



David Blackstock - May 09, 2025 at 10:43 PM



“ *Lester Reynolds lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith*



Lester Reynolds - May 06, 2025 at 01:39 PM

RB

“ Randy Byrd sent a virtual gift in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Randy Byrd - May 05, 2025 at 09:52 AM

KT

“ Dennis & Kaye Timmons



kaye Timmons - May 04, 2025 at 09:16 PM

RG

“ Sorry to hear of his passing. He was a great friend and colleague during his working at HB Robinson. He will be missed by all who knew him.



Robert Garner - May 04, 2025 at 11:06 AM

AM

“ A. McRavin lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



A. McRavin - May 04, 2025 at 06:05 AM

DA

“ *Mary & Family,
We are heart broken to hear about Tom passing away. He was a good man and he loved his family. We will be praying for all of you. So sorry for your loss.*

Derry & Bill Atkinson - May 03, 2025 at 09:10 PM



“ *Alfred Graham lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith*



Alfred Graham - May 03, 2025 at 12:42 PM

MS

“ *To Tom"s family I am so sorry to see that Tom has gained his wings my thoughts and prayers goes out to Mary, Tucker and Josh I know that his passing is not easy for the family but know he will always be remember as a great person . I will keep the family in prayer.*



Melissa D Spires - May 03, 2025 at 12:39 PM

GC

“ *I remember your big smile Tom, you could always brighten my day first at the power plant and then the skating rink. Thanks you for watching over my kids and helping them along through those growing up years. Rest now, you earned it*

Gail (Bowen) crosby - May 03, 2025 at 12:15 PM

GG

“ *Genevieve Garrity lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith*



Genevieve Garrity - May 03, 2025 at 11:54 AM

CC

“ *Christel Copeland lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith*



Christel Copeland - May 03, 2025 at 08:55 AM

AG

“ *April Griggs-Woods lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith*



April Griggs-Woods - May 03, 2025 at 04:41 AM

SK

“ *Sue Kelchner lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith*



Sue Kelchner - May 02, 2025 at 11:30 PM



“ *Much love to his wife children and EVERYONE that enjoyed the skating ring*



Betty Froese - May 02, 2025 at 09:50 PM

LG

“ *Tom and Mary were good to our children the skating rink was the first place my children had a job. Tom will be missed he was an amazing person. Sending prayers to his family.*



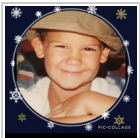
laurali graham - May 02, 2025 at 09:37 PM

JS

“ *Jean Stratton lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith*



Jean Stratton - May 02, 2025 at 09:34 PM



“ *I met Tom in Poplarville Mississippi many years ago. He was kind and always wore a smile. He went nuclear with my husband Tex Froese my father John Vulliety my uncle Dale Bazor ...they will all be together in heaven. Love to his Hartsville family. 🙏🌹*



Betty Froese - May 02, 2025 at 09:26 PM

MH

“ He will miss. We was good man. We love going skating and he was always smiling. Going to miss you Mr.Tom



Martha Mixon Hall - May 02, 2025 at 09:13 PM

CM

“ So sorry to hear about Tom's passing he was a good man and will be missed praying for his family and friends God bless



Crystal Talbert Minnehan - May 02, 2025 at 07:40 PM

RS

“ Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Rebecca Skinner - May 02, 2025 at 07:25 PM

DB

“ Dianne Byrd lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Dianne Byrd - May 02, 2025 at 06:49 PM

JA

“ Oh the miles this hard working man put on his feet at the skating ring!! More than I ever skated for sure! Good man Mr.Tom was! My condolences!!

Jason - May 02, 2025 at 06:35 PM

EB

“ Mary my condolences to you and the entire family.



Eric Boykin - May 02, 2025 at 06:20 PM

KF

“ Kathy Freeman lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Kathy Freeman - May 02, 2025 at 05:59 PM

AJ

“ Amber Johnson lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Amber Johnson - May 02, 2025 at 05:55 PM

EB

“ Eric Bradshaw lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Eric Bradshaw - May 02, 2025 at 05:44 PM



“ Sending prayers for the family.



Gina Shaw - May 02, 2025 at 05:42 PM

DA

“ He was a wonderful person who I had the chance to work for when I was younger as a skate 🛼 guard I'm sorry for your loss Mary!!



Devion Amerson - May 02, 2025 at 05:28 PM

TB

“ Tonda Bunch lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Tonda Bunch - May 02, 2025 at 04:55 PM

JS

“ Joel & Vicky Segars lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Joel & Vicky Segars - May 02, 2025 at 04:50 PM

JS

“ Mary and extended family, Joel and I are so sadden to hear the passing of Tom. He was always smiling and such a pleasure to talk with him. Keep your family and friends close and may the Lord give you comfort at this time of loss. God bless you. We will keep you in our prayers 🙏

Joel & Vicky Segars - May 02, 2025 at 04:48 PM

LE

“ Larry Easterling lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith



Larry Easterling - May 02, 2025 at 04:21 PM

BB

“ Brenda And Robert Bailey lit a candle in memory of James Thomas (Tom) Smith

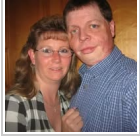


Brenda and Robert Bailey - May 02, 2025 at 04:16 PM

KB

“ May the Lord, comfort you all in the days ahead. Much love to you all

Kathy Brandis - May 02, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ Praying for you Mary and your family. Never will forget Tom and the Skating Rink.

Sharon O'Neal - May 02, 2025 at 01:31 PM

DS

“ I am so sorry to hear this sad news. He was certainly an admirable and devoted father who deeply cared for Mary and their sons. His smile brightened their lives as well as anyone he met. To Mary, Josh, and Tucker, you have great memories of your adventures and lives together as a family. May those bring you comfort and peace for your lifetimes. Sending you love and blessings.
Denise Schweizer

Denise Schweizer - May 02, 2025 at 12:56 PM

EM

“ Mary, Josh, and Tucker my heart and prayers are with you and your family. I am so glad that i got to see Tom at New Providence one more time, and spend time with him. Talking and sharing with that smile of his. He will be missed. New Providence family loves all of you as well as me.

Ernestine Moree - May 02, 2025 at 12:14 PM

KK

“ Tom you will be missed, and your kindness to others will not be forgotten. Pray for comfort for his wife and sons.

Karen Knight - May 02, 2025 at 01:06 AM