



Dr. Vanthony JB Smith

June 12, 1964 - October 27, 2021

Celebration of Life Services for Vanthony Smith Will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 10:00AM. These services will be recorded and streamed live. In the event the service is interrupted at any time due to technical issues, the entire service will be uploaded and available to view later in the day. Please copy and paste the link to share, or simply click on the link to view the service.

<https://vimeo.com/642498530>

Dr. Vanthony JB Smith departed his earthly life on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. He was born June 12, 1964 in Flint, Michigan and was the youngest child to the late Marsha Rose Smith and JB Smith of Flint, Michigan. He received his education from Northwestern High School, Diploma, Eastern Michigan University, Bachelor of Science, Troy State University, Masters of Science and Argosy University, Doctorate of Education. Additionally, he served as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve, was a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha (APA) Fraternity, Inc., and an active member at Shiloh Baptist Church.

Vanthony was a highly regarded and respected Assistant Principal at Dutchtown High School. He supervised the Science and Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) departments and the Junior Reserve

Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program. Vanthony worked closely with the male mentor program, daily announcement team, the audio-visual team, and could be found at a plethora of events as the school's photographer. He was currently working with colleagues from the military to help fund grants for the JROTC program. Vanthony touched the lives of students through his innate ability to instantly build rapport by always being fair as he encouraged critical thinking in students to help them make the best life decisions for themselves.

As an educator, Vanthony taught science and coordinated several Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives. Vanthony possessed an inquisitive mind and ensured his students always sought to expand their learning through robust challenges. He served as a robotics advisor and participated on the World Championship Robotics Team from Alcovy High School. Vanthony also served as a Technology Student Association Advisor. Countless students, families, and staff members benefited from the teaching, guidance, development, and administration Vanthony provided. Vanthony considered each stop along his journey as an educator/administrator as an opportunity to not only help others grow, but for him to experience growth as well. He cherished the opportunities provided to work in Henry County Schools, Dekalb County Schools and Baltimore City Schools. Vanthony understood the power of collaboration to achieve success for his students. Some of his most notable partnerships to improve the lives of students were with the NFL and U.S. Secretary of Education to secure grants awards to promote student achievement. Vanthony also spearheaded community events to help countless deserving seniors receive much needed scholarships to make their dreams of attending college a reality.

Vanthony was a member of APA's Rho Sigma Lambda (RSL) Chapter where he served as a Charter Member, Past Chapter Vice President, Co-Chairman, Annual RSL Scholarship Golf Tournament, Chairman & Founder, Alpha Esquires Mentorship Program, Chapter Photographer, Board Member, RSL

Foundation and Historian. Vanthony was a True Alpha Man in every sense of the meaning in that he was a “servant of all”.

Vanthony was an active member of his church community, Shiloh Baptist Church, where he volunteered and supported the Food Pantry, the Children’s Church, the Technology & Photography Ministry, and the Shiloh Boy Scouts Troop 712. During his spare time, he enjoyed several hobbies – photography, cycling, listening to jazz, fishing, cooking and gardening.

Vanthony is predeceased by his mother Marsha Rose Smith, his maternal grandparents John L. Henry and Georgia L. Henry as well as his paternal grandparents, JB “Tanner” Smith and Clara R. Smith. His tragic passing leaves an unfillable void of sorrow which is felt by many. Vanthony is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 28 years, Deborah A. Smith, his sons, Justin V. Smith (Jessica) & Evan J. Smith, his father, JB Smith, siblings, Bridgett Smith and Kimberly Smith-Johnson (Anthony), brothers-in-law, Colonel Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr. (Elby), U.S. Army, Andrew Schwapp, sisters-in-law, Antonita Dunbar and Deleene Walker, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends/colleagues, and his loving, loyal dog, Tyson.

Previous Events

Floral Deliveries (NO PUBLIC VIEWING)

NOV **10**. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (ET)

W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - McDonough Chapel
300 Griffin Street
McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-4337
info@wdlemonfuneralhome.com

Omega Service

NOV **11**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church - McDonough
262 Macon St.
McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-2344
<http://www.shilohmcdonough.org/>

Service

NOV **11**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church - McDonough
262 Macon St.
McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-2344
<http://www.shilohmcdonough.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith*



W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - November 04, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ *I worked with Vanthany at Columbia and Towers HS. A great teacher and Administrator. He will me missed. RIP Brother. 🙏🙏*

Nathan Powell - November 22, 2021 at 06:13 AM



“ *Sabrina Lang-Brown lit a candle in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith*



Sabrina Lang-Brown - November 19, 2021 at 03:05 PM

DP

“ Dr. Van, you WILL BE sincerely missed the many lives you touched directly and indirectly! I always enjoyed our conversations, and your Best Friend, my Brother, Charles, admired your charisma, enjoyed being Godfather, loyal neighbor, and cherished the stronghold friendship throughout the years! "BIG TIME" Indeed.

Thank you also for inviting me to speak to your students at Columbia High School, inspiring them to engage in Math and Sciences, and set achievable goals for a future education and career beyond the highest expectations of themselves!

Skee-Phi, Christian Soldier! Sleep peacefully, and May God continue to Bless the Smith family until Christ comes again to give us Eternal Life! ~Dr. Raquel C. Perkins

Dr. Raquel Perkins - November 15, 2021 at 08:55 AM

DP

“ Dr. Van, you WILL BE sincerely missed the many lives you touched directly and indirectly! I always enjoyed our conversations, and your Best Friend, my Brother, Charles, admired your charisma, enjoyed being Godfather, loyal neighbor, and cherished the stronghold friendship throughout the years! "BIG TIME" Indeed.

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Skee-Phi, Christian Soldier! Sleep peacefully, and May God continue to Bless the Smith family until Christ comes again to give us Eternal Life! ~Dr. Raquel C. Perkins

Dr. Raquel C. Perkins - November 15, 2021 at 08:49 AM

JF

“ John A. Frye III an Son , would like to send out our deepest condolences to the family, and friends . Peace Kuz much love 2 U an your kids an wife... Damn James Damn.



john frye3 - November 11, 2021 at 11:22 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Program



W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - November 11, 2021 at 12:15 PM

NI

“ Oh, Debbie. Please know that you are continually in my heart & mind. I am praying that you, Justin, Evan and the entire Smith family feel the comfort of the Lord.



Peace and Love,
Nicole Anderson

Nicole - November 10, 2021 at 09:27 PM

KC

“ I am very sorry for your loss. You have my sincere condolences with prayers for comfort and strength for your family 🙏❤️



Kathy Cleveland - November 10, 2021 at 07:29 PM

VW

“ Vanthony will be missed dearly. He's been a friend to my husband and I for over 20 years. We were teachers together at Columbia High School in Dekalb County and remained in touch. I will always remember his fun and loving personality and his outstanding talents and skills. May God bless Debbie, Justin & Evan during this time of sorrow. Perry & Vikki Williams and Family.



Vikki Williams - November 10, 2021 at 06:51 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.



November 10, 2021 at 04:28 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



November 10, 2021 at 03:07 PM



“ *The Munson Family and Miss Gigi purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



The Munson Family and Miss Gigi - November 10, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ *Jessica's Boeing Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



Jessica's Boeing Team - November 09, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ *Your Tuskegee Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



Your Tuskegee Family - November 09, 2021 at 09:48 AM

JS

“ So sorry to hear of Dr Smith’s passing. I worked with him at Towers High School where he was principal. Good person to work with. May God console his family during this time.

Jessica Smith - November 08, 2021 at 12:37 PM

YC

“ Yolonda Cross lit a candle in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith



Yolonda Cross - November 07, 2021 at 09:29 AM

TP

“ Tonya Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith



Tonya Price - November 06, 2021 at 11:15 PM

AA

“ Sending prayers of strength and comfort to the family. Van and I were classmates in Flint, Michigan.
R.I.P. Van

Anita Armstrong-Thorns - November 06, 2021 at 11:03 PM



“ *Demetrius Bowman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



Demetrius Bowman - November 06, 2021 at 09:16 PM

CF

“ *I grew with Vanthony in Flint, MI. my heart goes to his family.*
Cheryl Fargo



Cheryl Fargo - November 06, 2021 at 06:47 PM

JF

What up Cheryl ? I had 2 say I met you @ Holmes in English class , Van is my cousin an Tangie Luckett is 2 just sayn. Hope you & family are Well, Jhonathan Frye III Peace

john frye - November 11, 2021 at 11:45 PM

LW

“ *Dr. Smith, it was such an honor to have met and work with you at Alcovy High School. Thank you for donating you time and skill to help with the youth. Thanks for sharing your remote control skateboard and your photography skills for a newcomer like me. You still owe me a blueberry muffin.... ;-). You will be missed, my friend.*



LaTavia Williams - November 06, 2021 at 11:31 AM

CW

“ My heart ❤️ is heavy. Words cannot express how I feel to hear about the loss of your hubby. You and Vanathony were a beautiful couple and give us hope. Continue to trust in the word and live through your hubby memories. Sisterly love Soror Chris Wilson and family!

Chris Wilson - November 05, 2021 at 11:52 PM

RC

“ Debbie, Justin, Evan and the Smith Family. My Sincere Condolences and Prayers doing this time of sorrow. My prayers for your strength and comfort. Blessed Memories. Rhonda and Kyle Cobb, Atlanta

Rhonda Cobb - November 05, 2021 at 11:50 PM

LF

“ Debbie, Justin, and Evan ... Keeping you in our thoughts and Praying for strength for you and your family. May God provide you all with peace and comfort.



Lisa Behrend and family - November 05, 2021 at 10:24 PM

SJ

“ Debbie, Justin, Evan, and the Schwapp - Smith family. Prayers for comfort, strength and peace in the days ahead 🙏❤️



Soror Darleen Dee Johnson - November 05, 2021 at 02:42 PM

TB

“ Vanthony you will sorely missed. Thanks for the memories in McDonough and Baltimore City. Brother, Toni Barnes will remember that smile always.



Toni Barnes - November 05, 2021 at 11:29 AM

JA

“ It was a true honor to have worked with Dr. Smith at Dutchtown HS. He was always positive, stayed joyful and very helpful. He will be missed dearly. May God bless his family, loved ones and community during this time of bereavement.



jasmine - November 05, 2021 at 09:11 AM

RL

“ Raymond And Yolanda Leduc lit a candle in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith



Raymond and Yolanda Leduc - November 05, 2021 at 08:40 AM

ED

“ Eldridge, Vanessa and Lloyd Dedeaux purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.



Eldridge, Vanessa and Lloyd Dedeaux - November 04, 2021 at 04:16 PM

ME

“ With my deepest sympathy. Dr. Smith, a true ally. Will be sorely missed... Media S. Daniels



Media - November 04, 2021 at 02:40 PM

BM

“ First to the family, my God give you comfort during this most difficult period. I just learned about the passing of Vanthony tonight. Our paths first crossed in the House of Alpha many years ago. We formed an instant friendship within the brotherhood and quickly realized that we had many commonalities and interest, the first was we both wore bow ties. Vanthony was a very strong educator and believe in our children. My heart is shaken after learning of his passing. Vanthony was the standard bearer of a strong, well-dressed, intelligent man. He will truly leave a huge void in this world. May God bless his soul and his memory be a blessing.

*Bruce McMillian
Alpha Brother*

Bruce McMillian - November 03, 2021 at 09:07 PM

CF

“ My condolences to the family been knowing Van & Bridget since elementary we use to walk to Holmes Junior High together hadn't seen him in a while and he and Bridget came to visit their Dad a couple of months ago and I was glad to spend a little time with them RIH ❤️❤️

Cleo Flourney - November 03, 2021 at 04:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



November 03, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



November 03, 2021 at 11:16 AM



“ *Jamond sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith*



Jamond - November 03, 2021 at 09:31 AM



“ *Shirlene Clark lit a candle in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith*



Shirlene Clark - November 03, 2021 at 06:46 AM

GF

“ My condolences to Van’s family I thank God that some of our classmates from his high school NW c/o 82 were able to talk to him a few months back it was so good to see him! R.I.H. Gloria Fulgham-Kelly

Gloria Fulgham-Kelly - November 03, 2021 at 12:13 AM

KA

“ Will forever keep you our hearts Dr.Smith ❤️

Karma - November 02, 2021 at 09:15 PM

TI

“ Our condolences go out to the Smith family from the Tucker Middle School Family. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Tonya Izzard - November 02, 2021 at 06:32 PM

CS

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Vanthony Smith. It’s hard to digest that you have left this earth. You will always be my brother, the fun times we had in Flint will forever live with your memory in my heart. May God comfort your family during this most difficult time. Rest my brother until we meet again!

Love you, Van

Cynthia D. Smith - November 02, 2021 at 03:34 PM

SH

“ *Shenera lit a candle in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith*



shenera - November 02, 2021 at 01:31 PM

CH

“ *I grew up with Vanthony in Flint, MI and he's been a longtime childhood friend ever since. My heart goes out to his family. He will be sorely missed by many!*

Chris Humphrey - November 02, 2021 at 11:53 AM

BC

“ *My family is extremely sorry to hear of this news. My son was a cub scout, Alpha Esquire and Dutchtown student under Vanthony. He was a great man and wonderful mentor. He will be missed. Praying for strength and comfort for the family.*”

BeNedra Cleveland - November 02, 2021 at 11:36 AM

TS

“ *Tracey Smith lit a candle in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith*



Tracey Smith - November 02, 2021 at 11:26 AM

VD

“ V.bo And Laverne Oliver DHS lit a candle in memory of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith



V.bo and Laverne Oliver DHS - November 02, 2021 at 11:00 AM

DJ

“ JB was a good dude and his legacy will continue through his sons and through the lives of all he touched. Take your sweet rest bruh! Your presence is already missed! Love from the Brotherhood of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. 06!

Dwayne Jackson - November 02, 2021 at 09:40 AM

TH

“ My condolences to the Smith family. I grew up in the same neighborhood as Van in Flint.



Tracy

Tracy Hairston - November 02, 2021 at 06:33 AM

TB

“ This tragedy truly saddens us. Our sincerest condolences to Deborah and the rest of the family. All of you are in our thoughts.



With love.

Anthony Dixon and Terry N Bailey

Terry N Bailey - November 01, 2021 at 01:28 PM

JU

“ Few men on this earth can surpass Vanthony Smith for he was truly one of a kind. I met Van through his lovely wife Debbie and through this union a man of integrity, good moral character and decency was always present and on display. He was sincerely a good man, husband, father, son, brother, educator and friend to many. His untimely death sent shockwaves, heartache, and pain to all who knows him and he will be missed. May his reward in heaven be great and may he rest in heavenly peace. Much love to my long time friend Debbie and to godsons Justin (Jessica) and Evan.



Juanita - November 01, 2021 at 12:01 PM

YS

“ I worked with Dr. Vanthony Smith at South Cobb HS. He inspired several students and faculty. He was always polite, helpful, and positive. His legacy here at South Cobb HS will always be an inspiration to others. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time. Y. Scott

Yvonne Scott - November 01, 2021 at 11:27 AM

LR

“ Sending our deepest condolences to the Smith family, friends and extended family.

Lynn and Sheena Richburg

Lynn Richburg - October 31, 2021 at 11:39 PM

AD

“ *Mr. Smith was at Union Grove High School, as Evening School Principal, during 2000-2004 School Year. My son was a student at UGHS when I first met Mr. Smith. We have remained friends. My hubby and Mr. Smith would often talk about biking together over the years. My sincere Condolences to his wife, children, family and the entire Dutchtown School community. May Vanthony Rest in Heaven. Greg and Mimi Davis, McDonough, GA*

Amelia Davis - October 31, 2021 at 10:59 PM

TR

“ *Words cannot express how hard this is to accept. What a true friend and buddy!!! OMAHA! ❤️❤️*

Tex Rover - October 31, 2021 at 10:17 PM

JP

“ *Wow! I am deeply saddened by this. Vanthony was VP at Southwest DeKalb and after moving on I would still look up in the stands from time to time and see him, still supporting the Lady Panthers. Rest well, Vanthony, rest well 🥹🙏*

Joyce Paul - October 31, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ I really am going to miss you buddy but I know you are resting in a much better place with our Lord and Saviour. I am praying for Debbie, Justin, Evan and the rest of the family. May God continue to comfort you during this most difficult time.

Demetrius



Demetrius Bowman - October 31, 2021 at 08:01 PM

BS

*“ With Deepest Sympathy, Because We Care
We hope our prayers will comfort the Smith Family during this time of bereavement.*

Betty Smith and Family

Betty Smith - October 31, 2021 at 07:41 PM

TS

“ I will miss my dear friend Vanthony. This will take some time to process.

Rest easy my friend.

Travis L. Smith - October 31, 2021 at 06:58 PM

MA

“ Vanthony was a dear friend from our days at Columbia High School until the recent times...If you truly knew him; he was a friend and I thank God for him...To his family may God cover you with his peace and keep you in his grip forever until you meet your love one again ...The Scott, Green and Ross families

Marcia - October 31, 2021 at 06:09 PM

CB

“ Dr. Smith blessed us daily with his vibrancy and tenacity each day at Dutchtown high school. We only had him for a short time; but his time with us was impactful. May he truly rest peacefully in the arms of the Lord. And may the same be of comfort to his family and friends. Job well done Dr, Smith.
Chiron Beavers-Simmons

Chiron Beavers - October 31, 2021 at 04:59 PM

GB

“ Golf Women Mean Business
Send our prayers and condolences
🙏🏻🎈🚩📷🌹🕊️
* Our AlphaFriend behind the Camera *
Rest Well Brother Van Anthony 🌹😞



Golf Women Mean Business - October 31, 2021 at 09:25 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Vanthony JB Smith.*



October 31, 2021 at 08:59 AM



“ *Vanthony and I worked several years together at Columbia High School where he was an amazing teacher. I remember when Vanthony was so kind to assist my son who was at that time in elementary school, with his science project. His dedication as a Science teacher went beyond the call of duty in the classroom. Although, I've not seen Vanthony in years, my heart aches to hear of his passing. Please accept my son, Lance and I heartfelt condolences to the family!*

Vivian Storrs - October 31, 2021 at 08:10 AM



“ *Susan and I send our condolences. May the light of his good deeds sustain you in the days ahead.*

John & Susan Carter - October 30, 2021 at 08:55 PM



“ *Prayers for peace and comfort from our staff at HereToServeHospitality.*

Kimberly Schley - October 30, 2021 at 12:11 PM

PA

“ To Debbie and the young men you all are in my Prayers.I am always just a phone call away.Brother Alexander. 🙏

Pete Alexander - October 30, 2021 at 11:59 AM

KS

Prayers for peace and comfort from our staff at HereToServeHospitality. 🙏

Kimberly Schley - October 30, 2021 at 12:09 PM



My deepest condolences.
Demetrius Bowman

Demetrius Bowman - October 30, 2021 at 02:00 PM

MI

To Vanthony's family, my prayers and condolences to you. I worked with Dr. Smith at Alcovy High School and he was a mess, always giving me a hard time. I tell you he enjoyed riding that skateboard and taking pictures.-) A fun and loving guy. May God give you strength during this time. Michelle Evans

Michelle - November 09, 2021 at 12:19 PM