



Mr. Nathaniel Wilford "Smitty" Smith, Sr.

February 13, 1933 - January 2, 2022

UTICA – Mr. Nathaniel Wilford “Smitty” Smith, Sr., age 88, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 2, 2022, with his wife and family by his side. Nathaniel was born in Exuma, Bahamas on February 13, 1933, to the late Wilford Harcourt and Pleasant Beatrice (Brice) Smith. He was raised by his maternal grandparents Julia and Nathaniel Brice in a loving home. Nathaniel was one of seven children, brothers Ralph, Kermit, Orthaniel, Neville, Lernice and sister Eleanor. He was very proud of his Bahamian roots and loved to reminisce about the happy times spent with family and friends in Exuma and Nassau. He especially enjoyed telling tall tales of conch diving, fishing, and life growing up on the family sugar cane farm.

Nathaniel came to the United States in 1958, settling in Utica, NY. On April 1, 1964, he married Agnes Benbow. Their marriage was a loving and blessed union of 57 years. Together they raised a total of eight children.

Nathaniel was employed at Beaunit Fibers, Mele Manufacturing, finally retiring from Revere Copper and Brass in 1982. Skilled at working with his hands, Nathaniel was a professional painter, handyman, and jack of all trades. He owned several homes on Dudley and Eagle streets and took great pride in maintaining his properties.

Nathaniel was an excellent cook, known for his delicious meals, especially family barbecues and fish fries. He said what he meant and meant what he said. Nathaniel was known for his funny quotes and expressions, all said in his distinct Caribbean accent, like: “I monarch what I survey” and “Believe you

me boy.” Everything, in his words, was “Asinine.” A neighborhood staple, Nathaniel could be found every morning at Benji’s diner, having coffee with his friends or on the porch enjoying a cold Old Milwaukee. Neighbors fondly recall times he would beat them at checkers and take their money, but ultimately he would give it back because he felt bad. He was a loving and devoted father and grandfather who centered his life around his family. He will be dearly missed, but his family will forever hold his memory in their hearts.

Nathaniel is survived by his beloved wife, Agnes; their children, Elizabeth Buchanan, Albertis Miller (Melvinea), Nathaniel Smith Jr., Sheila Henderson (Scott), Winston Smith, Kenneth Smith, and Nathaniel Smith Savage (Curtis); 37 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Nathaniel also leaves his sister, Eleanor; his brothers, Orthaniel (Rowena) and Kermit (Marina); and sister-in-law, Roberta Cabbage McCray. Nathaniel will live on in the hearts of his special nephew and niece, Jesse and Louberta Dennis and family; his goddaughters, Kelly Smith Paulson, and Anita Taylor; and a host of nephews, nieces, and extended family who will remember him fondly. Nathaniel was predeceased by his daughter, Sherriden Booker (Charles); parents, Wilford and Pleasant Smith; brothers, Ralph, Neville, and Lernice; sisters-in-law, Ada Levy, Willar Mae Lemon, Irene Sabb, and Maggie Mae Baker; brothers-in-law, Moses Benbow, Elijah Benbow, Willie Benbow, Abraham Benbow; and great-grandson, Jeremiah Clinton, Jr.

Nathaniel’s family wishes to extend their gratitude to the staff of the Oneida Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing. The family would also like to extend their thanks to the MVHS at St. Luke’s Healthcare 5th floor staff for all their care and compassion.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Eannace Funeral Home, 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Regardless of vaccination status, face masks are required to remain in compliance with the state and county mask order. Interment will follow in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. Nathaniel Wilford "Smitty" Smith, Sr..



January 10, 2022 at 10:01 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mr. Nathaniel Wilford "Smitty" Smith, Sr..



January 10, 2022 at 01:42 AM



“ *The Burks family - Mae, Oscar & Michael* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Mr. Nathaniel Wilford "Smitty" Smith, Sr..



The Burks family - Mae, Oscar & Michael - January 09, 2022 at 08:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mr. Nathaniel Wilford "Smitty" Smith, Sr..



January 07, 2022 at 09:14 AM

KT

“ *Our deepest deepest condolences to the entire Smith family. You will continually be in our thoughts and prayers*

Keith & Angela Webb, Memphis Tn - January 07, 2022 at 07:45 AM

SH

Thank you very much. From Nate (jr) & Sheila Smith Henderson. 🙏🏻😊

Sheila D. Henderson - January 07, 2022 at 02:29 PM