



Alonza Cummings

November 20, 1944 - March 1, 2026

Alonza Cummings (affectionately known as “Baddie”), son of the late Geneva Cummings and James Smalls, was born on November 27, 1944, in Beaufort, South Carolina. He was the only child, however, treated his cousins Geneva Holmes (preceded him in death) and Delphine Simpson as his sisters. His mother passed away when he was about seven months old and so was raised by his grandparents Julia and Arthur Cummings (both preceded him in death). His aunt, Elease Cummings (preceded him in death) also played a tremendous role in raising him. Alonza was the proud father of three biological children—Yvette, Alonzo, and Kareem (who preceded him in death). He also lovingly embraced the role of a father figure to Michael Sparrow, Crystal McNeil, Danielle Witsell, and Alice Sparrow.

Quietly and peacefully on Sunday March 1, 2026, God in His infinite wisdom, closed Alonza’s eyes and entered him into eternal rest.

Rooted deeply in his Geechee Southern heritage, Alonza was a good friend to everyone he met. His strong southern accent was not only a reflection of his history, but a symbol of his strong upbringing.

Alonza was educated in the Beaufort public school system and graduated from Robert Smalls High School in 1962. After high school, he served four years in the Air Force as a ground equipment mechanic. After his service, he

worked as a warehouseman in the supply department of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. When layoffs occurred, Alonza pursued studies in air conditioning and refrigeration. The guidance counselor at the school informed him about opportunities in the air traffic control field. In 1970, after passing a government test, he was offered a position at a Government Service rating of a 7, which he turned down. The reason he gave was: "I would have had to go down to the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) Academy for twelve weeks and since I had no experience in air traffic control, I knew that I would not have made it, so I wrote to the FAA to consider me at some future date." The following year, Alonza accepted the air traffic controller's job at John F. Kennedy Airport. He said, "This time I accepted because I would be attending school for six months with fellows who, like me, didn't have the background either. At least I would have a fair chance to learn." Working as a GS12 journeyman at JFK Airport in Jamaica, New York, Alonza Cummings loved and enjoyed what he considered not an ordinary job. He eventually became the supervisor of the Air Traffic Controllers at JFK Airport and was serving as the supervisor during the events of 9/11. Alonza retired as a GS15.

Alonza joined St. Anthony Baptist Church on March 30, 1986, and was baptized the following month on April 18, 1986. He served as a Trustee and was an active member of the men's choir. His integrity, compassion, generosity, and unwavering dedication to his church could never be replaced.

Alonza was a devoted Dad, church Trustee, Air Force veteran, retired Air Traffic Controller, and loved kids.

After an illness, his son Alonzo and daughter-in-law Teisha cared for him and relocated him to Virginia. Alonza remained in Virginia for his final 6 years.

Alonza leaves to cherish his memory his biological daughter Yvette Daneen Smalls, biological son Alonzo Sparrow (Teisha); four that he embraced the role

of father figure to, Michael Sparrow, Crystal McNeil, Danielle Witsell, and Alice Sparrow; granddaughters, Azzanni Sparrow, Brittany Etheridge, Latrelle Bailey, and Zouri Sparrow; grandsons, Khiry Smalls, Alonza Miranda, Clifton Washington, and Phillip Etheridge; Cousin/Sister, Delphine Simpson; Nieces, Dr. Dee' Ann S. Lisby-Lundy, Andrea N. Simpson, and Cynthia Simpson; Cousins, Arthur Lee Cummings (Rose), Julia Spratt-Holmes (Howard), Oliver Spratt (Lurene), Donna Brown (Melvin), and Howard Spratt (Anna) and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, great grandchildren, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Albert G Horton Jr. Veterans Memorial Cemetery

5310 Milner's Road
Suffolk, VA

Previous Events

Service

MAR 6. 3:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Alonza Cummings



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 11 at 02:05 PM



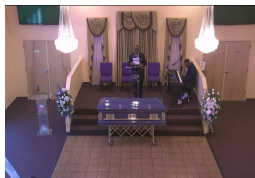
“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Alonza Cummings

**CLICK HERE TO
VIEW SERVICE**

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 06 at 01:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Life Celebration of Alonza Cummings



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 11 at 01:56 PM

MB

“ Marie Baptiste lit a candle in memory of Alonza Cummings



Marie Baptiste - March 06 at 01:47 PM

FF

“ From The Kirkby Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Alonza Cummings.



From The Kirkby Family - March 06 at 02:49 AM

FF

“ From The Kirkby Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alonza Cummings.

From The Kirkby Family - March 06 at 02:49 AM

DR

“ I am still shaking my head in disbelief, Alonza is no longer present to be the joyful and pleasant man that made all he knew laugh. We both were officers for St Anthony Baptist Church in Brooklyn New York as well as close friends. I thank God for the time we shared and he will always be in my heart.

Blessings, Deborah and Chavon Robinson

Deborah & Chavon Robinson - March 05 at 12:34 PM

MB

*Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there's a trail of beautiful memories.
You and I shared a very unique friendship for many many years.
Always in my heart.
Condolences and prayers to the family.*

Always Marie Baptiste

Marie Baptiste - March 05 at 06:30 PM

YT

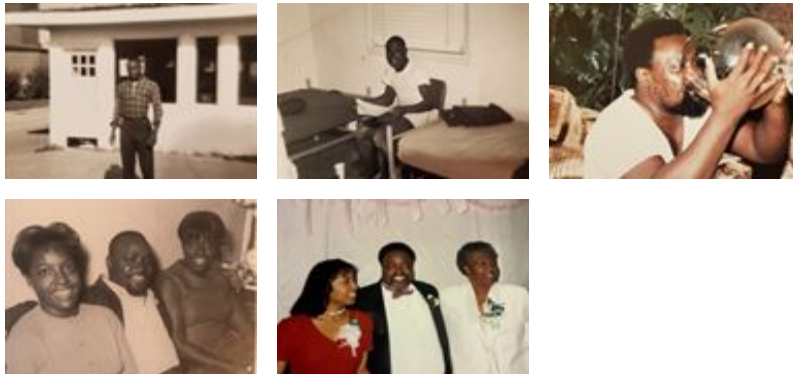
“ *Your BHG Virginia Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Alonza Cummings.*



Your BHG Virginia Team - March 05 at 10:49 AM

JTF

“ *42 files added to the album Life Tributes*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 05 at 10:14 AM

WF

My condolences to my dear sister yvette I will truly miss poppy I enjoy the time with him on ski trips and crab feast . Take your Rest now you will forever be in my heart

Wanda Frazier - March 06 at 10:02 AM

ED

“ Edward & Lavinia Damon purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Alonza Cummings.



Edward & Lavinia Damon - March 05 at 09:40 AM

ED

“ Edward & Lavinia Damon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alonza Cummings.

Edward & Lavinia Damon - March 05 at 09:40 AM

AL

“ Alma Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Alonza Cummings



Alma Lawrence - March 05 at 12:19 AM

SH

“ Starr Frazier Hargraves-Fulton lit a candle in memory of Alonza Cummings



Starr Frazier Hargraves-Fulton - March 04 at 06:38 PM

SH

“ R.I.P Baddie, I remember the couple of internationals tours you came on. You were the life of the party. I loved your laugh and accent. You made our trips more enjoyable. Gone but never forgotten!

Starr Frazier Hargraves-Fulton - March 04 at 06:37 PM

DR

“ My condolences to the family of Brother Al. We attended St Anthony Baptist Church together and he was a good friend to me and my husband David. Al or (baddie) as he was lovingly called was a dedicated member of our church and his commitment to the church was unwavering. May he rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon him. Deaconess Enid Robinson

Deaconess Enid Robinson - March 04 at 04:52 PM

LT

“ Love, The BHG PFC Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alonza Cummings.



Love, The BHG PFC Team - March 04 at 04:37 PM

DR

“ Deaconess Enid Robinson lit a candle in memory of Alonza Cummings



Deaconess Enid Robinson - March 04 at 04:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alonza Cummings.* ”



March 04 at 03:05 PM