



## Elder John Ronald Smalls

December 23, 1939 - March 11, 2014

Elder John Ronald Smalls was born to John and Sophronia Smalls on December 23, 1939 in Queens, New York. At the age of 15, Elder Smalls joined the Army and served for two years. He fabricated about his age to get in the Army, and since he was bigger than most 15 year olds, they believed he was older than what he really was. While in the military, he was also a boxer. That was the one and only sport Elder Smalls took a liking to. John and Bertie, (who preceded him in everlasting life on April 29, 2013), were married on June 19, 1959. Shortly after marriage, they moved to San Francisco where they lived for five years. While in California, they made life-long friends. Elder John and Mother Bertie moved back to New York where they lived until relocating to Chesapeake, VA in 1990. They were married for 53 years and from this union were born three children; Rondrea, John Jr. (John-John) and Toya. After returning to New York, Elder Smalls was an ambulance driver, he worked for a power company, a phone company, a trade school in Inwood, and worked as a transportation driver for Mr. Donald Trump. He also worked for the City of New York Department of Corrections at Rikers Island from 1970 until 1985. Elder Smalls would often tell many stories about being a correctional officer. He had great pride in his work and took pleasure in sharing with others his experiences of being an officer. After moving to Virginia in 1990, Elder had an array of jobs that ALL included assisting others. Elder Smalls was an assistant teacher for troubled young men at SECEP - South Eastern Cooperative Educational

Program and he worked at The Pines Residential Treatment Center. Additionally, Elder worked for the City of Chesapeake and he was a mentor to men & women who were in a drug program and he took them to and from their destinations. Elder Smalls was licensed as an Elder in the United Holy Church in June 2000, and later became a "District Elder". He and Mother Smalls were active in the "Senior Connection" and he regularly reached out to the seniors during their times of need and during special events. He attended fellowships, convocations, and all events associated with United Holiness Church. Elder Smalls leaves to cherish his memories and continue his legacy, one son, John Smalls, Jr. and his wife Keisha Smalls, two daughters, Rondrea Ross and her husband Richard Ross and Toya Smalls; Four brothers; Jerome Smalls identical twin who preceded him in home going on September 21, 2002; Rodney Smoot, Keith Smoot, and Sean Smalls; two sisters, Loraine and Allison Smalls; 6 beautiful grandchildren; Vaughn, Xavier, Chebar, Richard, Madison and Samantha. He also leaves nieces & nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Memorial Gardens

6329 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Norfolk, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 18. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy  
Chesapeake, VA

## Service

MAR 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Temple Church  
2644 Gilmerton Road  
Chesapeake, VA

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ God will definitely show you the way to smiling again. I know this experience will change you forever. Just remember all the good times you shared with your father and all the love he gave you throughout the years. He is not gone. He will live in your heart forever.

*Love Judith Brinkley*

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**Judith Brinkley** - March 18, 2014 at 08:37 PM

MA

“ Words cannot express the loss you are going through during this difficult time. We are saddened by your loss and our thoughts are with you. May your thoughts and memories of your Father keep him alive and with you in your heart and mind throughout the days to come. We wish you and your family the best through these trying times. May peace be with you and your loved ones.

*Marvin & Minnie Anderson*

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**Marvin Anderson** - March 18, 2014 at 06:10 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Elder John Ronald Smalls.*



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March 17, 2014 at 09:56 AM



“ Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Elder John Ronald Smalls.



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March 17, 2014 at 09:34 AM



“ To the family of John Ronald Smalls I would like to offer my condolences we know that death is the hardest thing we will ever have to deal with but we can take comfort from Jesus words recorded at John 5:28;29 where Jesus promised that "All those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out". In harmony with God's original purpose, those resurrected will have the opportunity to live on a paradise earth. This includes perfect health and everlasting life for obedient humans. The Bible says: At Psalm 37:29 "The righteous themselves will possess the earth and they will reside forever upon it again I would like to say I'm very sorry for your loss for more information go to [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org) Thank You

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**Tonya King** - March 15, 2014 at 12:36 PM