



Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr.

September 6, 1953 - January 21, 2024

Hiawatha Ted Smith, Jr. was born on September 6, 1953 in Marion, South Carolina to Hiawatha Smith, Sr. and Ella Mae Marcus Smith. He was the eldest of 9 children. He was affectionately known as Ted or Teddy throughout his life by all that knew and loved him.

In his early years, Ted and his family relocated to Jersey City, NJ. From a young age, Teddy was a natural athlete. He played little league sports year-round, focusing on basketball, baseball and football. It was during these early years that his talent was recognized multiple times in the local newspaper. He attended Ferris High School in Jersey City, where he excelled academically and athletically. His senior year, he served as Class President. His most memorable part of his high school years was meeting his true love Marybeth Velez. They met during their senior year, when he was on the football team and she was in the marching band. They were inseparable ever since. In his senior year of high school, Ted was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and had an important decision to make: becoming a major league baseball player or becoming the first in his family to go to college. He chose the latter.

In 1973 Ted earned academic and athletic scholarships to Rutgers University. He continued his football career and married his high school sweetheart Marybeth while in college. In 1977 he graduated with a BA in History.

Ted was truly a family man. From his union with Marybeth they had 4 children: Nakomis Mary, Hiawatha Kareem, Tykia Beth, and Kayla-Zo. Ted and Marybeth made a home for their children in Plainfield NJ. He prided himself in sharing life lessons with his family. He had a way of imparting wisdom through many of his shared stories to his children. Ted believed in supporting his family's goals and dreams. Whether it was being a model in his wife's hair shows posing as Phillip Michael Thomas, volunteering and attending his children's little league games, or supporting each of his children's decisions and career paths (even if it meant moving across country)....Teddy was everyone's advocate.

Ted had a brief career in education as a high school history teacher. He then began a long and successful career with the Equitable Insurance Company as an insurance salesman. After retiring from the insurance industry, he returned to his passion for teaching, and was employed with Virginia Beach Public School System, where he mostly worked at Renaissance High School Academy. There he made an impact on both his students and colleagues.

He believed in continuing to educate oneself and higher education. As a result of his passion for education the "Hiawatha Ted Smith, Jr. Scholarship Fund" has been established in his honor.

Ted had many interests and hobbies, including watching and playing football, basketball and baseball. His favorite teams were the Jets and the Mets. He loved cooking and baking (he was famous for his German chocolate cake), listening to the news, reading books, playing golf, traveling with his family, and spending quality time with his wife. His most memorable pastime was working out on his Nordic track and singing along to the songs he worked out to. This included multiple genres of music, including songs from Bob Marley, Otis Redding, James Brown, The Temptations, Aretha Franklin and his favorite, Sylvester. Additionally, he loved to listen to salsa and merengue.

Ted was preceded in death by his mother, the late Mrs. Ella Mae Marcus Smith, and brothers the late George and Ricky Smith. He is survived by his large loving family: wife Marybeth Velez Smith, daughters Nakomis, Tykia and Kayla, son Kareem, father Hiawatha Smith, Sr., siblings Terry Smith (Wanda), Jerry Smith, Audrey Smith, Anthony Smith, Eric Smith (Melanie), Derek Smith, 14 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **9**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial Service

FEB **17**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Macedonia Redeemed Pentecostal Church/Greater Macedonia Fellowship Hall
55-57 Prospect Avenue
Bayonne, NJ 07002

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr.

**CLICK HERE TO
VIEW SERVICE**

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - February 09, 2024 at 04:14 PM



“ I LOVE YOU POP AND MISS YOU POP. UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
💔

Hiawatha Karem Smith - March 17, 2024 at 05:58 PM



“ Love, Wema, Stephanie & Tai planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..

Love, Wema, Stephanie & Tai - February 15, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..



February 15, 2024 at 01:13 PM

LC

“ Love, Alisa, Kenny, Sydney and Crystal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..

Love, Alisa, Kenny, Sydney and Crystal - February 13, 2024 at 05:25 PM

LC

“ Love, Alisa, Kenny, Sydney and Crystal purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..



Love, Alisa, Kenny, Sydney and Crystal - February 13, 2024 at 05:25 PM

LR

“ Lucy & Robert purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..



Lucy & Robert - February 12, 2024 at 03:03 PM

MW

“ All of our love and prayers to heaven's new 🙏 angel...the Davey-Wolf family.



melussa davey wolf - February 09, 2024 at 03:34 PM

TF

“ *The Collado-Milligan Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..*



The Collado-Milligan Family - February 09, 2024 at 06:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..*



February 08, 2024 at 08:10 PM

MS

“ *Mark strubbe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..*

Mark strubbe - February 06, 2024 at 08:47 PM

MS

“ *Mark strubbe purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..*



Mark strubbe - February 06, 2024 at 08:47 PM

PT

“ Paul and Lillian were saddened to learn of the passing of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr. Our hearts share your loss and we continue to pray for God's Grace and Mercy upon your family.

Paul and Lillian Thomas - February 03, 2024 at 11:14 PM

KA

“ Ted was the epitome of a perfect gentleman. His spirit was so gentle and he was a very humble man too. He and Marybeth were a wonderful and loving couple. Sending my sincerest condolences to Marybeth and Ted's loved ones. Love and prayers, Kay Acurio

Kay Acurio - February 02, 2024 at 06:32 AM

TF

“ Tamika James & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..

Tamika James & Family - February 01, 2024 at 07:57 PM

TF

“ Tamika James & Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..



Tamika James & Family - February 01, 2024 at 07:57 PM

MA

“ *Mr. Smith always could make me smile. We would reminisce about growing up in NJ and NY, talk about the students, life, and what always made his face light up, his family. He was so proud of them and to see him talking about his latest grand baby was a true joy. I will miss his calm, gentle demeanor and how he supported all of us at RA. I pray for peace for the Smith family and thank you for sharing such a special person with us. Rest well Mr. Smith.*

Mary Arrington - January 28, 2024 at 04:39 PM

OL

“ *To the Smith Family my condolences. I'm so sorry for your loss and pain.*

O. T. Lampejo - January 27, 2024 at 02:11 PM

OL

“ *O. T. Lampejo purchased the [Written in the Stars](#) for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..*



O. T. Lampejo - January 27, 2024 at 01:56 PM

FP

“ *From Ralph Paez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hiawathia Theodore Smith, Jr..*

From Ralph Paez - January 26, 2024 at 01:11 PM

FP

“ From Ralph Paez purchased the Purple Lily Rose and Daisy Mix (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Hiawathia Ted Smith, Jr..



From Ralph Paez - January 26, 2024 at 01:11 PM

RD

“ Mr. Smith, as I knew him, was an amazing person. I met him when I first started working at the Renaissance Academy seven years ago. He was always so welcoming of students and super supportive of my endeavors as a baseball coach at Kellam High School and program coordinator at RA. When we spoke about our families, sports, current events, or life in general it was always a conversation that always brought us closer together. I will miss those times, but I want to thank his family for sharing him with our RA family. Sending you my condolences and prayers.

Richard DeJesus - January 26, 2024 at 11:39 AM

MP

Martha and Harry Patterson our deepest and most sincere condolences to you and your family. We have known the Smith's for many years. They are remarkable people and we have loved them for many years. Teddy will be missed tremendously, by both family and friends ❤️

Martha And Harry Patterson - February 08, 2024 at 07:24 PM

DF

“ Mr. Smith was a very caring, kind, and gentle man. We worked at Renaissance Academy for many years. He always had a motivating and inspiring word for both students and colleagues. I will miss him dearly.
May God's peace, comfort, and mercy be with his family and loved ones during this time of mourning. I will keep his family in prayer.
Dr. Fahie

Dr. Dafney R. Fahie - January 26, 2024 at 11:13 AM

EB

“ To the Smith family, I'm sending my condolences to all of you! Mr. Smith was a very special colleague of mines and he will be forever missed. I will carry him in my heart. Stay strong in the very power of God.

Eugene Benjamin - January 24, 2024 at 09:07 PM

EB

“ Eugene Benjamin lit a candle in memory of Hiawathia Theodore Smith, Jr.



Eugene Benjamin - January 24, 2024 at 08:56 PM

FB

“ The Britt and Boone Family want to say we are sorry for your loss. We are here for you.

Frankie Britt - January 24, 2024 at 01:52 PM

PT

Paul and Lillian were saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Hiawatha Ted Smith. We continue to Pray for God's Blessings upon his family.

Paul and Lillian Thomas - February 03, 2024 at 11:11 PM

JB

My prayers and condolences to the family of Hiawatha Ted Smith. I met him at a Christ Renews His Parish Welcome Weekend at Saint Gregory Catholic Church. I pray for Eternal Rest of his soul.

Jim Banks

Jim Banks - February 08, 2024 at 08:50 PM

DL

I was so sorry to hear about my friend Mr. Smith passing away. Mr. Smith was such an amazing person. I will miss his smile and contagious laugh. My heart goes out to your entire family. I could always depend on Mr. Smith to joyfully accept any assignment while he work with us here at Renaissance Academy. Mr. Smith was so flexible and could work with any group of students. Mr. Smith loved the students and the students loved Mr. Smith as well. Mr. Smith loved education and it poured freely from his heart. He always wanted to help anyone that was struggling. Mr. Smith was a great listener and so compassionate for others feelings. Mr. Smith made you feel so happy just to be in his presence. May the Lord surround your entire family as you morn the passing of this GREAT MAN, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He will be missed very much. God Speed Mr. Smith, the heavens are rejoicing today to have you home. Love and peace to all of you.

Donna Lineberry - February 08, 2024 at 09:09 PM