



Mr. James Earl Highsmith

March 19, 1939 - September 14, 2016

James Earl Highsmith was born in Robersonville, North Carolina on March 19, 1939 to the late Charlie Highsmith and Rachael Howard Highsmith. God sent his guardian angel to bring him home, September 14, 2016.

James received his formal education in the Martin County School System. He worked for Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) from which he retired after over forty years of dedicated service. He also served honorably for the United States Army in which he performed active duty as well as an Army Reservist. He joined Miracle Faith World Outreach in Monroe, Connecticut where he attended until relocating to Virginia Beach, Virginia.

James met and married the love of his life, Ada Ruth Atkinson Highsmith. To that union two children were born. If you knew James, then you understood what his sons and wife meant to him. They shared a bond that not even death could separate them. Their memories will be forever cherished.

“Smitty” as he was affectionately called by family and friends was an attentive husband, loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend. James took pride in his work, his dress and his family; making sure that there was not a need that within his power he could not handle. James gave of himself unselfishly to ensure that his family was cared for and everyone in his presence knew this as fact.

James was predeceased by his youngest son, Gevoice Highsmith; siblings, Charlie Highsmith Jr., Mary Lee Terry, Ann Rankin, Ernestine Highsmith, Milton Highsmith and Emma Banks.

James leaves to cherish his memories, his devoted wife of fifty- three years, Ada Highsmith; one son, Maurice Highsmith all of the home; one sister, Lula Terry of Baltimore, MD; one brother, Glen Highsmith (Rosa) of Bethel, CT; two sisters-in-law, Dorothy Maye of Upper Marlboro, MD, Willie Atkinson of Gloucester, VA; two brothers-in-law, James Atkinson of Danbury, CT, Clarence Atkinson (Geraldine) of Greenville, NC; one granddaughter, Paris Kemp of Virginia Beach, VA; daughters-in-law, Christ Karolyn Spence of Elizabeth City, NC and Pamela Clark of Virginia Beach, VA; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

Cemetery Details

Council Cemetery

14777 NC Hwy. 11
Bethel, NC 27812

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

New Wynn Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
191 Package-Craft Road
Bethel, NC 27812

Service

OCT 1. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Wynn Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
191 Package-Craft Road
Bethel, NC 27812

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James Earl Highsmith*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *Condolences*



Terrell heath - August 31, 2022 at 07:16 AM



“ *Paris Kemp lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Earl Highsmith*



Paris Kemp - March 20, 2019 at 04:06 AM

RL

“ Sharon,

I just heard that Jimmy has passed, and I want to express my sincere condolences. I know this is a heavy time for you, however you are in my thoughts as well as Jimmy.

Jimmy was a good friend and I thought very highly of him and the professional way he conducted himself. He was a valued mentor while he and I worked the NYSTA project through Rochester. I always found him as a fun-loving guy everyone liked to be around. We will miss him greatly.

One story about Jimmy I still tell the younger engineers is the time I was to meet with a Contractor who was not producing well. Jimmy and I met and I had instructed Jimmy that I was going to use a very tactful and reasoned approach to the dialog. After about 30 minutes of dialog, and getting nowhere, I saw Jimmy begin to fidget.

Suddenly, Jimmy stood up and with his booming voice and huge presence he announced that he didn't give a damn about all the excuses and when in the hell are you going to get on the stick and do what the contract calls for. Of course, this had the expected outcome to the meeting, which quickly ended with promises to do better. I remember my comment to Jimmy after the, "Well so much for tactful and reasoned approach." We all got a great laugh.

I will miss Jimmy!!

Rex Leffingwell

14942 Barletta Way

Delray Beach, FL

leffingwellr@bellsouth.net

Rex Leffingwell - March 09, 2018 at 05:35 PM

NI

“ *Nina lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Earl Highsmith*



Nina - September 13, 2017 at 08:17 PM

CC

“ *Cynthia Cherry Lovick*



Cynthia Cherry-Lovick - September 28, 2016 at 11:06 AM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home And Staff sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Earl Highsmith*



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - September 16, 2016 at 12:10 PM