



## Mr. John Bobby "BBQ" Smith

July 10, 1933 - February 11, 2012

The clock of life ticked for the earthly entrance of John B Smith, affectionately called "BBQ", born to the late Della Smith on July 10, 1933 in Greenville, North Carolina. The pendulum made its final swing on Saturday, February 11, 2012 as he peacefully slipped away.

John completed his secondary education at C.M. Epps High School in 1951. Upon graduation, he matriculated at Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC. During his time at Livingstone College, he was a member of the Alpha Kappa Mu Honorary Society, President of the Math Club, member of the basketball team, and even though short in stature, he was the quarterback of the football team. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Science in 1955.

His professional career took many paths and ended after over 40 years when he retired as a Principal from Pitt County Schools. John began his teaching career at Norwayne School in Wayne County where he taught Algebra and Geometry for two years prior to serving in the United States Army. After his honorable discharge having served two years, John returned to Greenville, NC and joined the C.M. Eppes High School faculty as an Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry teacher. He remained at Eppes High School until the integration of schools. During the tumultuous 1960's, he became one of the first Black teachers assigned to teach at the predominantly White School, E.B.

Aycock Junior High School.

John married Charlotte Jenkins on October 15, 1960. God blessed this union with a son, Rodney Keith Smith and a daughter, Tiffany Rashelle Smith Bryant. After the birth of Rodney, John attended Hampton University, Hampton, VA where he earned a Masters Degree in Mathematics while beginning certification as a Principal. He completed his Principal Certification from East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. He began his principalship at Elmhurst Elementary School, followed by South Greenville Elementary, and ended his career at E.B. Aycock Junior High School. After retirement, John was known to many as a "Principal Extraordinaire" due to his firm discipline; "the principle with the paddle" and compassion for helping his students succeed. Pitt County Schools asked him to return as a "trouble shooter", assisting many principals within the school system for nearly twelve years, retiring a second time.

John was initiated as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. while on the campus of Livingstone College. Later, he joined the SCLC and was a member of the Rofelt Pasha Shrine Temple #175 for many years. John joined the York Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church at an early age. He loved his church dearly and served diligently as a Steward for many years; a member of the Men's Choir and most recently, the First Sunday Choir.

He was preceded in death by a loving step-father, Parnell Bynum.

John leaves to cherish his memories: his devoted wife, Charlotte; son, Rodney; daughter, Tiffany (Jesse); four grandchildren: India, Rodney, Tia, and Tyson; three sisters: Geraldine Cunningham, Bertha Carol Andrews (Adolph), and Arlene Smith (James); five brothers: William Worthington, James Worthington (Jerry), Ernest Worthington, Willie Mack Worthington, and Arnold Worthington; one aunt, Mary Smaw; six sisters-in-law: Deloris Brooks (James), Gussie Dickens (Ralph), Betti Hinton (Milton), Barbara Baker, Keretha Whitfield (Willie), and Glenda mayo (Dwight); two brothers-in-law,

John Jnekins and Alton Jenkins (Terry); devoted cousins: James Daniels (Quincy), Addie Everette, Lucille Daniels, Phyllis Barrett, Martha Everette (George), Willie Mae Barrett, Margaret Umphrey (Gollon), Dora Burton, Ruby Williams (Ted), Betty Jo Robbins, Johnnie Streeter, and Willie Lee Barrett; a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Congleton Funeral Home and Cremations  
3205 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858  
(252) 355-9995  
congletonfuneral1@gmail.com  
<http://congletonmortuary.com>

## Service

FEB 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1001 Hooker Road  
Greenville, NC 27834

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John Bobby "BBQ" Smith*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *James"Boot"Yarrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Bobby "BBQ" Smith*



**James"Boot"Yarrell** - December 27, 2014 at 10:50 AM



“ *Mr. Smith was my 9th grade Algebra teacher at EB Aycock (the first year it was open) and I believe my homeroom teacher. He was a wonderful teacher and we respected him greatly. He expected us to learn the material, but he was also a lot of fun! I loved it when he laughed. He taught us well and we truly liked and admired him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Jackie Dawson Wilkerson, JHR class of '73*

**Jackie Dawson Wilkerson** - February 22, 2012 at 12:40 AM



“ *Mr. Smith was my Principal at South Greenville School when I was in the 4th-6th grade and when I got to E.B. Aycock, he had moved there to be my Principal when I was in the 8th and 9th. J.B. was a good man, we had our hard times but now that I look back, I needed the discipline that he put forth and I love him for it. You will be missed and remembered by many, many people that grew up in Greenville. Nothing but love for J.B. Smith.*

**Brian K. Vincent** - February 18, 2012 at 11:40 AM



“ *Mildred Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Bobby "BBQ" Smith*



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**Mildred Anderson** - February 18, 2012 at 10:48 AM

WM

*To Charlotte and Family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Coach Mitchell's son, Wayland and family in Anchorage, Alaska*

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**Wayland Mitchell** - February 19, 2012 at 06:01 PM

JB

“ *You were smart and kind and filled with good humor. Your'gruff'disciplinarian act always let our kids know you cared and you worked to create the best plans for individuals and their families. I liked you immensely and will not forget the quiet leadership you provided this community.*

*Johann Bleicher*

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**Johann Erich Bleicher** - February 18, 2012 at 08:25 AM

RH

“ *1 file added to the album Tribute Wall*



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**Roy D. Hudson** - February 17, 2012 at 04:23 PM

BC

“ - To the best principal that ever was , he really cared about the students , he will be greatly missed . glad i had the opportunity to know him . To his wife Mrs. smith you have my deepest sympathy may god be with you <3

*From : Brenda Corey*

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**Brenda Corey** - February 16, 2012 at 04:35 PM

JH

“ My condolences to the family. I greatly enjoyed working with J.B. for many years. He was a great administrator with a keen sense of purpose and dedication. He never failed to keep a good sense of humor and a balanced perspective. J.B. and his family are in my prayers.

*Grace and peace, John H.McKnight*

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**John H.McKnight** - February 16, 2012 at 11:07 AM

HD

“ Thinking and praying for your family during this time. Surely Greenville was blessed having Mr.Smith and his wife as educators. Hannah Howard DeSoto (EB AYCOCK and class of 1979 JH ROSE HIGH)

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**Hannah Howard DeSoto** - February 16, 2012 at 07:51 AM

LE

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Mr. J.B. Smith's passing. I had an opportunity to work with him when I completed my administrative internship a few years ago. He was definitely an "old school" administrator and was an inspiration to me as an aspiring principal. I learned a great deal from him. I always considered him an icon in this area and I know that he has inspired many other administrators as well. My thoughts and prayers are with the family in this moment of bereavement. May God bless you all.

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**Lionel Kato, Ed.D.** - February 16, 2012 at 04:51 AM