



## Walter Lee Smith Sr.

February 17, 1940 - July 13, 2024

Walter Lee Smith, Sr. was born to Cordie and Blanche Smith on February 17th, 1940, in Mexia, Texas. Walter is the third son of nine children in the family. Affectionately nicknamed "Buddy" by his family & friends, also "Walt" by his clients and patrons of his Hair Salon. He was a Football star, Prom King and showed an entrepreneurial interest early in life helping his grandfather Santa Anna Echols at the family-owned grocery store.

At an early age Walter confessed his belief in Christ and attended church with his family at First Baptist Church. He was trained as a Junior Deacon, but it was in his early twenties that he had an encounter with the Lord that changed his life forever.

He graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 1959 and returned one year later to marry the love of his life Doris Ann

McDaniel affectionately, known as Ann on June 3rd, 1960, in Mexia, Tx. Shortly thereafter they joined other family members starting new lives in the Pacific Northwest. This union celebrated 60 years of marriage on June 3rd, 2020.

Walter and Ann would settle in Vancouver, WA. and begin their family and to this union four children would round out this loving family three daughters; Debra Annette, Kathy Yvonne and Taunya Rene and one son; Walter Lee Smith, Jr., and nephew David Lee McDaniel. Buddy and Ann would share their family home for 49 years in Vancouver until her passing in October 2020. He and Ann set up a loving home for their family while establishing his career.

Walter would work in various roles and occupations. Walter was a drum major

for justice and an advocate for civil rights and the rights of all people, He attended Molar Barber College in 1967 and was the only black male in his class. Walter graduated despite the enormous obstacles to keep him from being successful and completing his schooling. After several years of local Barbering businesses not hiring him because he was black and the white business owners said their clients would not want the hair cut by a black barber. Also, the Barber Union was operated by people that were racially motivated to keep him from being able to make a living as a barber. Walt worked for the VA Hospital as a janitor and barber, where he cut our Veteran and service men's hair. He also worked at United Airlines as a Skycap. When God is for you who can be against you! In 1969 Walter opened his own business Walt & Jack's Barber shop, which later became Walt & Jacks Hair Affair that is still in operation today 56 years later.

The place of business became a gathering place for so many people. All were welcome in the barber shop and although they may have been coming for hair services, it became a place of prayer, counsel and a place that would be used for the glory and honor of God. It is a Historic landmark in Vancouver, WA and will always be acknowledged as a place of equality for all and a beacon of the community.

This Barber shop became a major part of his legacy, but his biggest life work was his devotion to his family, church, friends, and community. In his spiritual walk with Christ, Walter attended Open Bible Community Churches and in 1975 He became a faithful member of Community A.M.E. Zion. Walter accepted his call to be a messenger of God and began preaching and teaching the word of God. In his early days of ministry Walter was mentored by scholars of God's Word like his Godfather Bro Silas Denton. Walter would share the word of God and the love of Jesus Christ to everyone that would listen. He had a heart for people from all levels of society and shared that love through his actions of evangelism- the bread ministry, and food pantry. Walt and Ann would partner together in ministry, she would sing, and he would preach. Ann would help him in performing wedding ceremonies and marriage counseling.

Walter was the Assistant Pastor of McLoughlin Heights Church of God, under Pastor Ethel Brown where he would support the growth and furtherance of the ministry of the church. Walter loved to hear his family sing and was blessed to have a spouse with an anointed gift to sing, daughters, son, and grandchildren. Although he loved to sing, he did not have a melodious voice, but he would say frequently that he was making a joyful noise unto the Lord and would join in any chorus or hymn.

Walt was always available to lend an ear, provide guidance and give encouragement to family and friends. His home was always open to those who needed a place to lay their head or just sit for a while.

Life Journey Continued Walt was an avid athlete and in his leisure time he would play softball, golf, hunt, barbeque, bowl, play dominoes, cards and billiards. He enjoyed his family and friends especially his longtime friends Kenneth Dillard, Levi Harris, Frank Hooks.

Walter was a successful provider and offered support for his spouse Ann and his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, whether it was celebrating their accomplishments or supporting them financially through troubling times.

Walter is preceded in death by his loving wife Ann (60 years marriage), his Mother Blanche, Father Cordie Sr., Brothers Cordie Jr., and Joe, and Sisters Ellen, Wilhelmena. Those left to cherish his memory are his children, Debra Young (George), Kathy Parrish (Jeffery Sr.), Taunya Poe (Randall II) and Walter Jr. (Kevin). His siblings, Jack (Joyce) Smith, Dayton (Cornetta Smith), Goldie Smith, and Alice Rogers. Brother In Laws, DL McDaniel (Erma), Garland McDaniel (Eula) and Sister-in-Law, Jeanette Madkins all of Fort Worth, TX. Seventeen Grandchildren and Twenty Great Grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and lifelong friends. Our Hero will be missed dearly, he taught us to live life to the fullest and in all things give God the glory. We will continue to live this Life to the glory and honor of God so we can be assured that we will see him again in that great getting up morning.



# Tribute Wall



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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 06:07 PM

DH

“ *This is about a man I have had the pleasure of knowing for over 50 years. A very hard-working man who owned and operated his barber shop and worked full-time at the Airport in Portland all while finding time for his friends and family. I remember asking him early on in our friendship why he worked so many hours . Walt told me that he wanted to be sure his family was well taken care and could enjoy a good life.*

*As the years passed and our friendship grew we spent years discussing family, music, friends that we both shared, business, travels well all the things that good friends discuss.*

*Replacing such a good friend is impossible but the memories and the great conversations will live forever in my heart.*

*Thank you for all those years and your friendship RIP Walt.*

*Love,  
Dale and Barb Hansen*

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**Dale and Barb Hansen** - August 02, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Walt not only gave great haircuts to my sons, but also gave sound biblical advice. On a sunny Saturday morning, I would walk into Walt's barbershop and he would be sitting in a barber chair with his Bible in his lap. I grew up without a dad, and always felt that had I had a dad, I would have wanted him to be like Walt. He was always happy to see me and my guys. Not only did he cut their hair, he taught me how to cut their hair too. He was always adamant about getting the right clippers, Andis. And I still have them. God be with and bless your family.

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**Joanna** - July 29, 2024 at 12:00 AM

WJ

“ My Dad is my SuperMan. There was nothing he could not do. He was always there to support his family and provide for us anyway he could. I miss him so much, but I rest in the fact that he is together again with my mom and others. Rest on Daddy...forever grateful that God allowed you to be my Dad and I am your only son!!!!

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**Walter L Smith Jr** - July 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Walter Lee Smith** - July 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM