



Josephine Smith

June 12, 1948 - February 11, 2024

Josephine Bridges was born in Opelika, Alabama on June 12, 1948, to the late John Henry and Mary Precious Bridges. She was the sixth of their seven children.

Her family moved to Apopka, Florida in 1951. Josephine attended Phyllis Wheatley through High School. She played basketball and was a cheerleader. While on the cheerleading team, she once performed an advertisement for CR Smith under the direction of Ms. Betty Baker. Josephine was interested in business and participated in a Business School program.

In 1966, she met and later married Sylvester Smith and to that union her eldest daughter, Tonya, and son, Sylvester Jr., were born. After divorce, she later had another daughter, Erica. Her three children were her heartbeats and she was devoted to them. As a single mother, she raised her children to be strong, confident, independent, and proud, just as she was. She mastered being both mother and friend to her children, knowing when each role was needed. In 1980, she met the man who became her longtime companion, Ed Dennison. Josephine and Ed shared a loving, supportive and genuine fondness for one another until her death.

Josephine started employment at Martin Marietta and worked there until 1969. She worked as an assembler and was involved in making components for the

circuit boards and the Shillelagh Missile. This missile was used by the American soldiers during the Viet Cong War. After leaving Martin Marietta, she joined Stromberg Carlson (now Siemens) where she worked as a quality inspector for old dial tone and push-button telephones. She retired from Siemens in April 2003 and enjoyed spending time with her family, shopping and babysitting her grandson, Jabari. Josephine loved her Phyllis Wheatley classmates and cherished the time they spent together, whether at the Biennial Phyllis Wheatley class reunions or other gatherings. In her younger years, she played softball as the center fielder with Henry Insurance of Apopka. In retirement, she participated in the Apopka Progressive Senior Club.

Josephine had a very gracious and pleasant personality and enjoyed being around people. She especially loved her family and the frequent family gatherings no matter the occasion. Her favorite holidays were Thanksgiving and Christmas because of their family focus, and some of her favorite activities were decorating for the holidays and listening to music. Her favorite gospel group was the Williams Brothers; her favorite artist was Frankie Beverly and Maze; and, her favorite song was "Jesus is Love", by the Commodores featuring Lionel Richie. Josephine was very fashionable and enjoyed the finer things in life. She also enjoyed family road trips, football games, and cooking. On the weekends, she would sit on her front porch with children, nieces, and nephews eating breakfast and drinking coffee.

Josephine was passionate, caring, dedicated, and committed to her children. Her family always came first. She had a gentle spirit but could also be very humorous at times. Her favorite color was blue and she loved her mother's dressing and mastered her mother's recipe perfectly. Her favorite TV shows were "Blue Blood", "Matlock", any of the Judges shows, and "Family Feud".

She was a faithful and dedicated member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Apopka, Florida where she served on the Adult Usher Board.

Josephine was a dedicated daughter, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, caregiver to her parents, and friend to all.

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, Josephine transitioned to God's Kingdom. Her departure is a deep, personal hurt and loss to her family and she will be profoundly missed by them all.

Josephine was preceded in death by her parents, John Henry and Mary Precious Bridges, brother, Henry Louis (Sonny) Bridges, Sisters, Geraldine McGraw, Joann Bridges, and Mary C. Bridges.

Josephine leaves to cherish her memory: A loving, devoted, and caring Companion, Ed Dennison, Apopka, FL; 3 children, Tonya Williams (Terry), Daytona Beach, FL, Sylvester Smith Jr., and Erica Childers, both of Apopka, FL; 6 Grandchildren, Krenishia Smith, Adarian Smith, Sylvester Smith III, Jasean Smith, Shaila Smith, and Jabari Wilson, all of Apopka, FL; 5 Great-Grandchildren; 2 Brothers, Nathaniel Bridges, New York, NY, and Arnell Bridges (Bernice), Orlando, FL; a host of wonderful nieces, nephews cousins and sorrowing friends.

Cemetery Details

Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery ~ Apopka

141 South Edgewood Drive
Apopka, FL 32703

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
927 South Central Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703

Service

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
927 South Central Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Jesse B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine Smith.

Jesse B. - February 24, 2024 at 11:59 AM

SR

“ Sharon Rouse lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith



Sharon Rouse - February 24, 2024 at 11:17 AM

AA

“ Adloph Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith



Adloph Armstrong - February 23, 2024 at 02:16 PM

JS

“ *What a pleasure it was to have this beautiful individual in my life. I'm proud to say that she was the BEST mother-in-law that anyone could ask for. I remember the early mornings when she would knock on the door to let me know that the coffee was ready, then we would sit on the porch for hours full of laughter. The memories that I have for her will forever be cherished in my heart. May God give the family grace and protection during this time of sorrow.*

*With Love
Janet Hundley-Smith*

JANET HUNDLEY SMITH - February 22, 2024 at 12:22 PM

RB

“ *Roshawna Bridges lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Roshawna Bridges - February 20, 2024 at 02:34 PM

DB

“ *Debra Bridges lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Debra Bridges - February 20, 2024 at 10:24 AM

SW

“ *Sadie White, on behalf of my former classmate*



Sadie White - February 19, 2024 at 06:31 AM

MA

“ *Mary L. Alston lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Mary L. Alston - February 19, 2024 at 02:04 AM

CM

“ *Carol Murray lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Carol Murray - February 18, 2024 at 03:48 PM



“ *Darryl Rutland lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Darryl Rutland - February 17, 2024 at 04:44 PM

EC

“🕊️ *FOREVER IN MY HEART MOTHER* 🕊️

Erica Childers - February 16, 2024 at 09:51 AM

RM

“ *Prayers for the Smith and Bridges Family*



Regina McGruder - February 15, 2024 at 12:20 PM

DM

“ *I was blessed to have met Ms. Josephine. She was such a warm, vibrant and lovely woman. To see her light up with her beautiful smile always made my day. I will miss her. Our blessed hope is that we will see her again.*



*Humbly submitted,
Dr. Mary McWilliams*

Dr. Mary McWilliams - February 15, 2024 at 12:18 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine Smith.*



February 15, 2024 at 12:01 PM

GI

“ GROWERS SUPPLY SERVICE, INC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine Smith.

GROWERS SUPPLY SERVICE, INC - February 15, 2024 at 12:01 PM

AB

“ Angela Britten sent a virtual gift in memory of Josephine Smith



Angela Britten - February 15, 2024 at 07:39 AM



You will definitely be missed by us all. I love you, Auntie. 💕💕💕💕😭

Darryl Rutland - February 17, 2024 at 04:42 PM

AB

“ Angela Britten lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith



Angela Britten - February 15, 2024 at 07:39 AM

CD

“ Clara Desue lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith



Clara Desue - February 14, 2024 at 06:09 PM

DN

“ *Dot Newsome lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Dot Newsome - February 14, 2024 at 12:35 PM

AJ

“ *AJ lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



AJ - February 14, 2024 at 11:13 AM

TB

“ *Tangela Bellamy-Brown lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Tangela Bellamy-Brown - February 14, 2024 at 09:54 AM

MS

“ *MONICA DENISE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



MONICA DENISE SCOTT - February 13, 2024 at 09:48 PM

MK

“ *THE FAMILY IS IN OUR PRAYERS*

*MINNIE LONG SCOTT
MAMIE LONG KELLY
THE CLASS OF "1966"
PHYLLIS WHEATLEY HIGH SCHOOL
APOPKA, FLORIDA*



MAMIE LONG KELLY - February 13, 2024 at 07:31 PM

TD

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Terric Durden - February 13, 2024 at 06:48 PM

WE

“ *Wests sent a virtual gift in memory of Josephine Smith*



Wests - February 13, 2024 at 06:07 PM

CW

“ *Charlie Mae Warren lit a candle in memory of Josephine Smith*



Charlie Mae Warren - February 13, 2024 at 05:16 PM