



## Mr. Michael Jay Smith

September 30, 1960 - November 17, 2022

Michael (Mike) Jay Smith of Johns Creek, Georgia passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2022. He was born in Millington, TN on September 30, 1960, at the U.S. Naval Hospital. He was the son of the late Dr. Buren S. Smith, Sr. and the late Lennie Sharp Ricks. The middle son of a Navy medical doctor and Psychiatrist, Mike spent his young years living in the Naval Base Trinidad in Trinidad, West Indies and had fond memories of life spent in the tropical oasis with his older brother, Steve and younger sister, Alison. This is where he first developed a love for nature and the ocean.

Mike grew up in Brandon, Mississippi and attended Brandon High School where he first met the love of his life, Teresa Palacios. Mike and Teresa dated for 4 years prior to a beautiful wedding on June 4, 1983, and in 2023 would have celebrated 40 years of marriage. In 1989, Mike fell in love again when his daughter Jessica Mercedes was born. His life would never be the same again and he found total happiness in the joy and beauty of his “brown eyed, curly haired girl” who he would lovingly call his “Bubba” and “Goober.” He thought his life was totally complete and then another wonderful surprise came when Jeffrey Michael was born in 1991. The day he brought Jeffrey home from the hospital, he held him in his arms and said, “you are my beautiful boy, and my life is so full and complete.” He knew the Smith legacy would continue and that this “beautiful boy” which he would sing and play his guitar to had forever changed his life. He absolutely adored his children and was a loving and caring husband and father.

A brilliant mind, Mike scored a perfect score in his ACT's and was awarded a full 4-year scholarship to attend Mississippi State University where he graduated with honors with a degree in Nuclear Engineering and Physics. Immediately after graduating college, Mike joined Arkansas Power and Light in Little Rock, Arkansas where he and Teresa spent 5 years. He then was offered a role as a Director and Senior Consultant for NAC International which brought him and Teresa to Atlanta, Georgia. He traveled the world and was held in high esteem for his experience in the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle. He worked for NAC for 18 years and then worked as Senior Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton where he led the firm's efforts on various nuclear nonproliferation programs and nuclear energy initiatives. In 2008, Mike joined UxC, LLC as a consultant and was the ultimate subject matter expert on the nuclear fuel cycle working on various projects and managing

critical databases for the company and industry. He worked for UxC, LLC until his final days.

Mike was a lifelong learner and would study with intensity any subject he was interested in. He became fascinated with gardening (especially vegetables and herbs), reading, cycling, music (guitars), wines, cigars, the Bible, wood, scientific instrumentation, and cooking. He loved football and would spend his weekends watching and discussing both SEC and NFL games with his son, Jeffrey. His favorite team was the Minnesota Vikings, but the New Orleans Saints and the Atlanta Falcons also held a special place in his heart. He loved anything to do with nature from trees to the ocean and would share this love with his family. He was an ultimate chef and shared his love of cooking with his daughter Jessica who he would spend time exchanging tips and cooking secrets for many recipes. They would spend hours in the kitchen, and he cherished his time with her along with teaching her the recipes of the dishes that were dear to his heart which were the “southern recipes” that had been passed down from his mother and grandmother. Like his father, Mike would develop a love for collecting anything he was passionate for. He was known for his great sense of humor and generosity. He was a family man and deeply loved his wife, children, parents, siblings, and sisters-in-law who he had known his entire life. He would always say that he valued God, family, and country and the search for the truth. His most treasured gift was the beautiful land his father left him and his siblings in Terry, Mississippi.

Along with his parents, Mike is preceded in death by his brother Jeffery Smith. He is survived by his wife Teresa Palacios Smith. His two loving children: daughter Jessica (Jess) Mercedes Smith Peterson and Jeffrey (Jeff) Michael Smith of Johns Creek, GA. His son-in-law, Patrick (Pat) Peterson of Decatur, GA. His brother, Steve B. Smith, Jr, his daughter, Avery and his wife, Katherine Smith of Forest, MS. His sister, Alison L. Smith and his nephew, Ryan Hendrix of Brandon, MS and his children. His sister-in-law, Alma M. Vallim and brother-in-law, Jeferson Vallim of Roswell, GA and children, Matheus Durieu and his wife, Francis Durieu along with their daughters from Alpharetta, GA. His niece, Dani Durieu and her husband, Artur Brigette from Curitiba, Brazil. His sister-in-law, Rosa Kinard and brother-in-law, Kerry Kinard and nephew, Connor Kinard from Carrollton, GA. His sister-in-law, Carmen Palacios from Alpharetta, GA. Along with many extended family members, colleagues, and close friends.

A celebration of life will take place on Saturday, November 26, 2022, at the Northside Chapel at 12050 Crabapple Road, Roswell, Georgia. Visitation will begin at 11am followed by a service in honor of Mike at 1pm. There will be a reception immediately after. Those interested are welcomed to stop by the home after the ceremony.

Please visit [www.northsidechapel.com](http://www.northsidechapel.com) to share memories and leave condolences to the family. Please reach out if you or a loved one is experiencing depression. The following resources are available <https://afsp.org/>; <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-pr>

evention

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

## Memorial Service

NOV 26. 1:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Michael Jay Smith*



Northside Chapel - December 01, 2022 at 07:47 PM



“ *Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Michael Jay Smith*



Northside Chapel - November 25, 2022 at 10:47 AM

MW

“ *Teresa, I am deeply saddened to learn of your beloved husband's passing. You and your family are in my prayers. May God grant each of you peace to bring comfort, strength to face the days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. Myriam Pierre Warren*

Myriam Pierre Warren - December 08, 2022 at 02:19 AM

PN

“ *So many childhood memories I would not know where to start. “ Memories, pressed between the pages of my mind. Memories, sweetened through ages just like wine..” Thank you all for the sweet memories. I love you so much...Phil*

Phil Nail - December 03, 2022 at 05:25 PM

DF

“ *Desrie & Our Entire Guarantee Family! purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



**Desrie & Our Entire Guarantee Family!** - December 01, 2022 at 05:41 PM

FH

“ *Fox Creek HOA purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



**Fox Creek HOA** - November 26, 2022 at 07:15 AM

MF

“ *Margarita, Freddy, y Familia purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



**Margarita, Freddy, y Familia** - November 25, 2022 at 05:22 PM

LF

“ *Love, your ACB Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



**Love, your ACB Family** - November 25, 2022 at 01:00 PM

HA

“ *Hope Atuel purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



**Hope Atuel** - November 25, 2022 at 11:42 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 24, 2022 at 05:10 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 23, 2022 at 11:15 PM



“ *sorry for loss*

**Zihana Lim** - November 23, 2022 at 08:10 PM



“ *Your BHHS Florida Network Realty Family purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



**Your BHHS Florida Network Realty Family** - November 23, 2022 at 11:05 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 23, 2022 at 11:01 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 23, 2022 at 10:13 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 23, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 23, 2022 at 09:49 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 23, 2022 at 09:07 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.*



November 23, 2022 at 07:19 AM

JH

“ I have such fond memories of Mike growing up as neighbors in Brandon. What a brilliant, kind, and funny man who will always be remembered and loved by so many. May God give his family and all of his friends, including me, comfort and peace.

Jan Hogue - November 22, 2022 at 11:06 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.



November 22, 2022 at 10:40 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.



November 22, 2022 at 10:35 PM



“ When her brother-in-law, Mike, came in the room, Mike was the best brother-in-law anyone could ever ask for. He truly treated the Palacios sisters like his own blood . When u

*I became sick and needed a place to recover he opened his home to me and helped me to get back on my feet. He was the first person I communicated to when I woke from coma. I wish I could remember it better but I do remember the feeling of love and safety knowing he was there . This is part of a post written by a friend - I'm thankful every time I read it and it warms my heart knowing he cared. - Carmen smiled the biggest smile (including teeth)!!! I didn't even get that reception! When Mike had to go, Carmen mouthed the words "I love you." Teresa, Mike, and I teared up!  
Thank you for loving me despite my crazy emotional dramatic personality and accepting me. ❤️*

Carmen Palacios - November 22, 2022 at 10:31 PM

MB

“ Teresa, I am so sorry for your loss. We are wishing you and your family strength and peace through this difficult time. Mike Browne

Mike Browne - November 22, 2022 at 10:08 PM

AC

Teresa  
I offer you my deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved Michael. You always expressed the love which exists in your family and know that you will all miss him dearly. Love and prayers for you all. Anne Cintron

Anne cintron - November 22, 2022 at 10:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.



November 22, 2022 at 09:29 PM

AA

“ I fondly remember Mike being my saving grace. I needed a place to stay while working temporarily in Atlanta and he and Teresa welcomed me in with open arms. They were the best hosts a young 20-year-old girl could ask for and while I was there Mike was always there for me. When it was time for me to drive my car home it ended up breaking down and without hesitation he helped me get it fixed. I only wish I got to spend more time with him. Mike was such a wonderful man and I am sending all my love to our family.

Ashley Allen - November 22, 2022 at 09:10 PM

CR

“ Heartbroken for you, Teresa. Lifting you all up in prayer and sending love in the days to come. Carolyn

Carolyn Rosson - November 22, 2022 at 08:55 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.



November 22, 2022 at 08:07 PM

GR

“ Teresa you never missed a chance to mention Mike and what your family meant to you. Sincere condolences on your loss at this very difficult time. We're sending you love and healing thoughts. Gretchen

Gretchen Rosenberg - November 22, 2022 at 05:49 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.



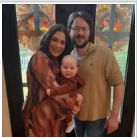
November 22, 2022 at 05:33 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Jay Smith.



November 22, 2022 at 04:27 PM



“ The best Dad there ever was. He always encouraged and supported me in everything. I will think of him every minute of every day for the rest of my life.

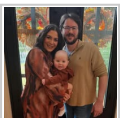


Jessica Peterson - November 22, 2022 at 03:57 PM

GV

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Mike was a wonderful man and colleague in the nuclear industry. We all will miss him. Cathy and my prayers are with you. George Vaughan

George and Cathy Vaughan - November 22, 2022 at 10:54 AM



The best Dad there ever was. He always encouraged and supported me in everything. I will think of him every minute of every day for the rest of my life.

Jessica Peterson - November 22, 2022 at 03:49 PM