



Jessie Rayford Smith

September 15, 1936 - February 21, 2012

Jessie Rayford Smith was born September 15, 1936 in Taylor, Mississippi. He was born to the union of Annie Lois Boone and Russell Smith Sr. His brothers are Russell Smith Jr., Earl H. Smith and Richard A. Smith.

Jessie was fond of talking about his life from childhood although he lost both parents before the age of six years old. He loved looking back over his life, often stating, he had as much as any, but more than many. He had no complaints.

Jessie married his high school sweetheart, Essie Mae Slate. Their union was blessed with three loving children, Larry Rayford, La Sheron and La Sheral.

Jessie served five years in the military and then moved to Chicago, Illinois. For his first career he worked at Tri-Supply/Thompson-Haywood Chemical Company as a chemical blender. After retiring, he started a second career as an independent heating and cooling contractor which he truly loved.

After a study of God's word, Jessie dedicated his life to Jehovah and symbolized his dedication through water baptism. He faithfully and proudly served Jehovah God for over 40 years. He served as an elder, an auxiliary pioneer and later as a regular pioneer. He knew Jehovah God had blessed him so very much through his family.

On Tuesday, February 21, 2012, Jessie fell asleep in death. He was preceded in death by his parents, Annie and Russell Sr. We will remember him as an achiever, a leader and a doer who enjoyed life and helped people whenever he could.

Fond and cherished memories of Jessie now remain in the hearts of his loving wife, Essie; three children, Larry Rayford Smith, La Sheron Bankhead (Bill) and La Sheral Smith; six grandchildren, Camille R. Smith, Bryant I. Bankhead (Sherica), Adamma M. Bankhead, La Erica A. Blackmon, Warren Rayford Blackmon and LaSheron A. Bankhead; one great grandchild, Bryant N. Bankhead; three brothers, Russell Smith Jr. (Mary), Earl H. Smith (Mattie), Richard A. Smith (Regina); and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Service

FEB **29**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (101st)
10134 South Vincennes Avenue
Chicago, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Jessie Rayford Smith*

October 04, 2023 at 06:11 PM