



## Elmer Lee Smith, Jr

June 21, 1962 - April 20, 2024

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Bernard Elmer Lee Smith, Jr., who left us peacefully on April 20, 2024, at Emory University Hospital in Decatur, Georgia. Bernard was born on June 21, 1962, in Los Angeles, California, and was a cherished member of our community throughout his vibrant life.

Bernard is survived by his loving daughter Jasmine (Felix, Smith) Martinez and her husband Alfonso Enrique Martinez; his son Zahier Smith; his sister Dorothea Pruitt and her husband Emanuel J. Pruitt, Jr. He was a devoted grandfather to Amara, Denair, Merika, and Mylah Martinez. He also leaves behind his nieces Alysha Pruitt (JaMel) Harvey and Ashley Pruitt, along with a host of cousins, extended family, friends, and young people he affectionately regarded as his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer Lee Smith, Sr., and Zelia Lorraine (Davis) Smith.

Growing up in Los Angeles, Bernard was an energetic child who loved the outdoors, swimming, and playing football. He was educated in Los Angeles County Schools, attending Russell Elementary, Thomas Edison Junior High, and John C. Fremont High School, followed by Los Angeles Community College. Bernard's adventurous spirit led him from California to Nevada and eventually to Georgia, establishing roots and making lasting friendships along the way.

Bernard's career spanned several decades in the towing and automotive

industry, including positions at D&H Towing in Merced, California, and Statewide Towing and Flat Daddy Tires in Lithonia, Georgia. A true entrepreneur, Bernard founded Flat Daddy Tires, where he was known for his warm, welcoming nature and genuine concern for his customers' safety. A passionate mentor and coach, Bernard dedicated much of his time to coaching youth football, from Atwater, California to various teams in Georgia. He was particularly proud of leading the Year 2000 Redan Youth Football Team to a Bobby Dodd Championship. Bernard's commitment to young people extended beyond the field; he was always willing to offer a ride or a helping hand to those in need.

Bernard's charisma, humor, and generosity made him beloved by all who knew him. His legacy as a caring mentor, loving family man, and cherished friend will forever be remembered. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the local youth football league, a cause close to Bernard's heart.

Bernard's family extends their deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love and support during this time. He was indeed everyone's favorite and cool Uncle, and his presence will be deeply missed.

# Tribute Wall

FG

“ From daughter son in law & grandkids purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Elmer Lee Smith, Jr.



From daughter son in law & grandkids - April 26, 2024 at 05:14 PM

FG

“ From daughter son in law & grandkids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elmer Lee Smith, Jr.

From daughter son in law & grandkids - April 26, 2024 at 05:14 PM

AM

“ Ana, CeLes, Mary & Myrline purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Elmer Lee Smith, Jr.



Ana, CeLes, Mary & Myrline - April 26, 2024 at 01:52 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Elmer Lee Smith, Jr.



April 24, 2024 at 07:34 PM