



## Josie Mae Smith

October 1, 1937 - October 11, 2023

Josie Mae Smith (Denson) was born to Joseph McKenzie and Eula Denson on October 1, 1937, in Montezuma, Georgia. Josie peacefully fell asleep in death on October 11, 2023, at home with her loving caregiver, Sophiat Arikewuyo, and two of her daughters, Laverne and Beverly.

At the age of 17, this small town “Georgia Peach” relocated to The Big Apple; New York City where she secured a job in The Fashion District as a seamstress. This is where she met her husband, Wilfred L. Smith.

Josie was a very nurturing woman. Though she gave birth to three sons and four daughters, and she also adopted a sibling group of three, two more sons and a daughter, she also fostered at least 25 other children, most calling her “Grandma.” She had a knack for taking on “at-risk infants” and sibling’s groups, making sure they could remain together. Many in the “Edenwald Houses” Community would also look to her as a mother or older sister. She was truly loved by all who crossed paths with her.

She was known for cooking and feeding not only her own children but anyone who was hungry. It was said that she made the best fried chicken ever! Her three sons, Charlie James Smith, Wilfred Smith, and Alfred Smith (identical twins), along with a brother, Edward C. Denson, preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her children, Laverne Marks, Beverly Glover, Jacqueline (Roosevelt Jr.) Thompson, Theresa Smith, Johnny Davis-Smith, Danielle Davis-Smith, and Keith (Janae) Davis-Smith; her McKenzie siblings, Edward (Mary) McGrady, Mattie (George) Brown, Earline (William) Roberson, Jernese Haslem, Linda McKenzie, Eunice (Jean Mae) McKenzie, Oscar James, Deborah McKenzie, Eddie A. Muhammed, Paul (Annette) McKenzie and Rafford McKenzie; along with 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; two special cousins, Lewis T. Jolly and Pauline Ravenell; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and true friends.

Celebration of Life Services for Josie Mae Smith will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 1:00PM. These services will be recorded and streamed live. If the event is interrupted at any time due to technical issues, the entire event will be uploaded and available to view later in the day. Please copy and paste the link to share, or simply click on the link to view the event.

<https://vimeo.com/event/3822815>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service - Live Streamed

OCT **28**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home -Scottdale Chapel  
351 N. Clarendon Ave  
Scottdale, GA 30079

## Burial

OCT **28**. 2:15 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Washington Memorial Gardens  
700 Jordan Lane  
Decatur, Ga

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ We will always cherish the love and legacy Ms. Josie built through her beautiful family. Her strength and resilience is something I will always admire. May she rest in everlasting peace ❤️ My deepest condolences to the Smith and Glover family and all of her friends. Love “Baby” Rachel and Alfie Armstrong.

Rachel - October 28, 2023 at 01:27 PM

BG

Thank you so very much to all who were here for us, supporting us with prayers, calls, texts, flowers and other gifts of love. We, the children of Josie Mae (Denson) Smith are truly grateful and encouraged by your “cheerful giving”. We love you all. 💕💕

Beverly Glover - October 30, 2023 at 03:04 PM

JL

“ The shining personality of Ms. Josie will forever live in our hearts. My sincere condolences to her family and friends. With love ❤️ 🕊️🌸 Joan Lloyd

Joan Lloyd - October 28, 2023 at 11:13 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josie Mae Smith.



October 27, 2023 at 04:30 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Josie Mae Smith.*



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October 27, 2023 at 04:17 PM



“ *My cousin Josie and I grew up in different areas of Macon County, but attended the same Macon County school. The school had no cafeteria, therefore cousin Josie and I walked to her home for lunch. Whatever she had she would share it with me. Later in life when I desired to leave my home town in the South, cousin Josie welcomed me to share her home and family with me. I am always grateful for our cousin-ship over the years.*

*Now, she is resting In our Heavenly Father's Care. Cousin Pauline*



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**Pauline Ravenall (cousin)** - October 26, 2023 at 02:45 PM



*The shining personality of Ms. Josie will forever live in our hearts* ❤️ 🕊️  
🌸 *Joan Lloyd*

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**Joan Lloyd** - October 28, 2023 at 11:10 AM