



James "Mike" Smith

September 22, 1949 - May 20, 2026

James Michael "Mike" Smith, 76, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Mike is survived by his devoted wife, Betty Ingram Smith; his son, Joe Smith (Liza) of Carrollton; his daughter, Fran Smith (Jennifer) of Charlotte; and his cherished grandchildren: Walker, Payne, Owen, and Parks. He is also survived by his brothers: Allen Smith (Sue) of LaGrange, Tim Smith of Hogansville, and Bobby Smith of LaGrange. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Susan Smith.

Born on September 22, 1949, in Franklin, Georgia, Mike was the son of James Ozzie Smith and Dorothy Louise Pike Smith. He grew up in LaGrange, Georgia, where the foundations of his curiosity, kindness, and quiet strength first took root.

A graduate of Georgia College in Milledgeville, Mike earned his degree in Health and Physical Education, but he was a lifelong learner with a broad range of interests. From studying theology at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to embracing the digital age decades later by earning an A+ Microcomputer Specialist certification at Carroll Technical College, his curiosity knew no bounds.

From Mike's time as Camp Director at Rockridge Baptist Assembly in Franklin to the years he spent teaching Health and PE and coaching football at Fairplay Middle School in Douglasville, his career unsurprisingly also reflected his versatility and adaptability.

In 1984, Mike and Betty returned to Newnan, making the small town their permanent home and becoming members of Newnan First Baptist. Over the next three decades, Mike built a respected small business as the proprietor of Mike Smith Painting, earning a reputation for quality, reliability, and integrity.

Mike was the kind of man who could fix anything, talk to anyone, and hold his own on virtually any subject - not out of ego, but because he was genuinely interested in the world and delighted in sharing his knowledge. Whether excitedly exploring his newest gadget or donning his headphones to savor one of the many records in his carefully curated collection, he also had the rare ability to consistently find joy in the little things.

Above all, Mike had a gift for connecting with people. He had warmth and openness that made people feel at ease, and he carried himself with the quiet grace of a true gentleman. Even as dementia dimmed his spark in recent years, he remained unfailingly gracious and polite because those qualities weren't behaviors he performed; they were simply who he was.

Curious, competent, and kind - Mike embodied true strength, and he was a steady light in a world that needs more men like him. He is deeply loved and will be deeply missed.

A celebration of life will be held for Mike on Friday, May 29, 2026, at 11:00 AM in the Chapel of McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street, in Newnan, with Rev. LC Lane officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 AM until service time at the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Funeral Service

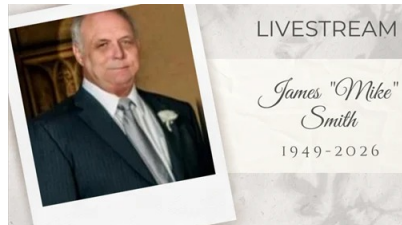
MAY 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of James "Mike" Smith*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - May 29 at 09:15 AM

HG

“ *Haley/Harris and The Gar-Hals purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James "Mike" Smith.*



Haley/Harris and The Gar-Hals - May 28 at 08:37 AM

JA

“ *Judy Amis purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Mike" Smith.*



Judy Amis - May 25 at 01:48 PM

YF

“ Your Shorter Friends purchased the Sweet Since rity for the family of James "Mike" Smith.



Your Shorter Friends - May 25 at 10:34 AM

WR

“ With love, Robyn purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James "Mike" Smith.



With love, Robyn - May 23 at 10:26 AM

WR

“ With love, Robyn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Mike" Smith.

With love, Robyn - May 23 at 10:26 AM

KM

“ Mike was always a very kind man and was always eager to talk to you about anything you wanted to talk about. I enjoyed having him in the Sunday School class we shared. I loved his sense of humor and will truly miss him.
Keith Moore

Keith Moore - May 23 at 06:51 AM

GW

“ *My sincere condolences to Betty and his family. May he rest in eternal peace.* ”



Geraldine Welch - May 22 at 05:20 PM

PF

“ *What a beautifully written tribute. You genuinely captured the essence of this wonderful man. We were blessed to have known him. Lifting all of you up in prayer and wishing you comfort.* ”

Patti and Bob Cross and family - May 22 at 02:15 PM

MT

“ *Mike and I taught at Ruth Hill many moons ago. We became friends through Betty and enjoyed many visits and conversations together through the years. Mike also worked as a house painter and was very meticulous at his craft. I will always remember what a kind and faithful husband, father, and grandfather Mike was. His enduring love for Betty, Fran, Joseph, and his grandchildren is a testament to his Christian ideals. He will be missed.* ”

Merry Todd - May 22 at 07:40 AM

LS

I remember Mike always having a beautiful smile. We would often sit down and have a long discussion about things. No one else in the room was interested in. I could always call Mike and find out the cheapest and best place in Newnan to buy something. The last time I visited Mike and Betty we had a really nice time talking and I will always remember that moment. Love to all of you, Lataine.

Lataine Smith - May 22 at 04:12 PM

DV

*I am so sad to see this, but knowing where he is, I know he would want us to rejoice for him. Mike was such a good man...he was a kind and faithful friend. I pray that Betty, Joe, and Fran will find much comfort in their faith, though it is such a painful time.
I'll be praying for them, along with so many others.*

Dianne Webb Vereen - May 22 at 05:50 PM