



Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr.

September 1, 1932 - February 22, 2022

Dr. Mark Hanna Smith, Jr, Southfield, MI – Aged 89

Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr. was born on September 1, 1932 to Mark and Lucille Smith in Burnside, MS. His family moved in his early years to Alabama, and then to Detroit. He graduated from Northwestern High School in 1950 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 – 1958. He was an All-American athlete in track and field. Dr. Smith earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Wayne State University. He was a life-long member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., crossing the burning sands in the fall of 1955 at Wayne State University's Alpha Beta Chapter. His line was known as the “Strolling Scrollers!”

Dr. Smith married Patricia Anderson on November 24, 1963. After a career in teaching, Dr. Smith broke barriers by becoming the first black principal at Cortland Elementary School in Highland Park, Michigan. Immediately upon receiving his Ph.D. in Education from Ohio State University in 1969, Dr. Smith began working as a professor of Education and Associate Dean at Wayne State University until his retirement in 1997. He was inducted into the Wayne State Athletic Hall of Fame in 1979.

Dr. Smith passed away on February 22, 2022. He was an athlete, a Navy veteran, a business owner, an elementary school principal, a professor, and Associate Dean at Wayne State University. Dr. Smith lived a life of service to the educational community. His intelligence, humor, wisdom, and kindness will

not be forgotten.

Dr. Smith is survived by his wife Patricia Smith, his children, Mark III, Kevin, and Katrina Smith, his daughter-in-law Helen Smith, and his grandchildren, Kelsey, Benjamin, and Olivia. He will be greatly missed by his family.

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services

24585 Evergreen Rd

Southfield, MI 48075

Instructions for Webcasted Services

1. Go to Kempfuneralhome.com
2. Click on your loved one's tribute page
3. Click on the photos & videos or Media Tab on the tribute page
4. There will be a link that shows up 15 minutes prior to your loved one's funeral service.
5. Once you click on the link, the host will need to let you into the live stream
6. Please call the funeral home if you need any additional help logging into the webcast.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 27. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services

24585 Evergreen Rd

Southfield, MI 48075

(248) 702-5367

info@kempfh.com

<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast Funeral Service in memory of Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr.*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 27, 2022 at 01:30 PM



“ *Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr.*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr.*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Those of us at Cortland School in 64-66 will remember he taught us how to folk dance. His wife, Patricia Anderson/Smith was my first (1961) and fifth-grade (1965-66) teacher at Cortland. May he Rest in Peace Always.*

Derrick Harge - February 27, 2022 at 04:17 PM

JD

“ To the Smith Family,

Dr. Smith was by far one of the greatest professional inspirations in my life. His extensive knowledge fueled too many of us to even consider. I am so thankful to have had him as a professor during my Graduate matriculation.

You all are in my prayers as I know you are extremely mournful yet proud of his immeasurable legacy.

*God Bless,
Jared J. Davis,
WSU C/O 96 (African-American Male Cohort)*

Jared Davis - February 27, 2022 at 01:34 PM

EM

“ Pat, Praying God's Peace, Strength and Comfort to You and the Family during this difficult time. Mark was a wonderful person and we will always remember the Great Trip to Jamaica and those early morning walks. Much Love Gloria and Eddie.

Eddie McDonald - February 27, 2022 at 12:24 PM

JW

“ Dr. Smith was my favorite instructor at WSU. Everything he taught me was useful in my career. This wonderful man will be missed by all! Peace to the family 🌹



Judith Wimberly - February 27, 2022 at 12:19 PM

MT

“ Our beloved cousin Mark has enchanted this Earth for over 94 years. He holds more titles than anyone we could ever know. Husband, Father , grandfather, brother-in-arms, basketball player, traveler, educator, enthusiast, philosopher, mentor, and the most important title of them all, friend. Mark has seen, lived, and experienced life to the fullest in ways that few others have or ever will.



We will miss his counsel, his laughter, his positive energy, and his spirit, as he continues his exciting journey by joining with our ancestors.

Your dear cousins
The Trapp Family

McConnell & Catherine Trapp - February 26, 2022 at 10:53 PM



I am so sorry to learn of my elementary principal's passing. His welcome smile each day at Cortland Elementary was such a positive way to start my and my classmates' day. God bless his family and may he Rest In Peace.

Paulette C Holloway

Paulette Holloway - February 27, 2022 at 09:29 AM

JS

Dear Mark III, Kevin, and Katrina,

Please know that my prayers and thoughts are with you as you strive to recover from the loss of your father, Dr. Mark Smith Jr.

As you know, Dr. Smith and I were assistant deans of Wayne State University's College of Education under Dean Edward Simpkins. Mark was a true professional, a hard worker, and a real friend. I will miss him and always remember all he did to strengthen the College during some very challenging years.

Dr. Joseph Sales Sr.

Joseph Sales Sr. - February 28, 2022 at 07:58 PM

YY

“ *Your Nieces and Nephews will miss you! purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr..*



Your Nieces and Nephews will miss you! - February 26, 2022 at 04:21 PM

DF

“ *Drs. Nettey & Family purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr..*



Drs. Nettey & Family - February 26, 2022 at 04:03 PM

DK

“ DeWitt and I are saddened to hear of the passing of Mark. He was a good friend to us both. Mark and my brothers had paper routes together and I worked with him for years at Wayne State University. DeWitt, Pat, and Mark were in the couples club together when Marie was alive. We are praying for the family. You all have our love.



Sincerely,

Dr. Silverenia Q. Kanoyton
Professor DeWitt S. Dykes

Dr. Silverenia Kanoyton - February 26, 2022 at 12:53 PM

DG

“ Delphine Nichols Greene sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr.



Delphine Nichols Greene - February 26, 2022 at 12:41 PM

TW

“ Dr. Mark Smith Family,
I give a special tribute to a friend I have known and worked with for ever 60 years. He shared with thousands across Europe and the U.S. to improve education and make it a private event for everyone he taught. Mark will be missed, but not forgotten.

Tom Washington

Thomas Washington - February 25, 2022 at 10:48 PM

MM

“ *Monique Merritt lit a candle in memory of Dr. Mark Hanna Smith Jr.*



Monique Merritt - February 25, 2022 at 01:00 PM