



Mr. Jesse James Smith

October 21, 1939 - December 26, 2025

Mr. Jesse James Smith, age 86, of Franklin, Georgia, went to his eternal heavenly home December 26, 2025.

Jesse was born on October 21, 1939, in Red Level, Alabama. His family moved to Winter Garden, Florida, when he was three years old. Later, he and his wife, Julia Smith, moved to Newnan, Georgia, in 1994. He was a 1958 graduate of Lakeview High School in Winter Garden, Florida. Jesse worked on the Winter Garden Police Force for several years, followed by driving semi trucks for Eckerd Drugs. He retired after 43 years and receiving many, many awards for safe driving. But most importantly to Jesse, was his faith and family. He lived a life of strong faith in our Lord and Savior. To his family, he was steady, strong, calm, humble, and patient. Jesse was full of wisdom and offered great counsel and he also had an exceptional sense of humor. For these reasons and more, he was loved and will be missed by so many.

Jesse was preceded in death by his father, James Smith; his mother, Rosie Lee Smith; and his sister, Irene Nichols.

Jesse is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Julia Smith; his son, Steven Smith and his wife, Ann; his daughters, Angela Starling and her husband, Dean, Melanie Guilliams and her husband, Tim; 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; his sister, Vera Love and family; his brother, Otis D. Smith and his wife, Judy, and family; his sister, Carolyn Pounders and her husband, Jerry, and family; and his lifelong friend, Max Martin.

Our hearts are broken, but we live with the promise that this is not goodbye

because we will join you at our new heavenly home.

Funeral services will be held at Gray Hill Church of God on December 31, 2025. Viewing will be from 12:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m. with the service beginning at 2:00 p.m. (Georgia time). Interment will follow in the church cemetery. (Gray Hill Church of God, 16058 County Road 87, Woodland, Alabama, 36280).

Cemetery Details

Gray Hill Church of God Cemetery

Woodland, AL

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **31**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Gray Hill Church of God
Woodland, AL 36280

Funeral

DEC **31**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Gray Hill Church of God
Woodland, AL 36280

Tribute Wall



“ 73 files added to the album Life Tributes



Rainwater Funeral Home - December 31, 2025 at 09:32 AM

RF

“ Jesse was so very special, always with a smile and hug. Always ready for a cup of coffee when he and Julia came to visit me. And always loved my Mississippi Pot Roast. Julia, Angie and Melanie my love and prayers are with you and the rest of the family. Hugs, prayers and love, Rita



Rita Franklin - December 30, 2025 at 05:48 AM

DW

“ You have always been my absolute favorite Uncle! I will forever cherish your love, laughter and your love for our Savior that you shared with me. You were an angel in a human body showing us the way. I'm saddened by your passing but I know I'll see you again. I love you Uncle Jesse!

Danyale Iler Wyrick - December 29, 2025 at 04:43 PM

KS

I didn't have the privilege to know you for very long brother Jesse, but you have made a lasting impact on me. Even in our gray years, men still need role models, true men of God, to listen to and learn from. That's who you were to me. I'll miss you, but I so look forward to seeing you again before the throne of our Father and getting to say what I thought I had more time to say, thank you.

Kevin Smallwood - December 29, 2025 at 10:08 PM

BM

Jessie my cousin, you will be missed, when you see your mom and your aunt Rosie Mae, give them a big hug and kiss for me. Tell them I love them and if you happen to see my daddy, tell him I miss and love him. We will see each other again in the near future. Your family loves you and I love you and all your family, I wish I could be there to tell you bye for now.

Betty Mizell - December 31, 2025 at 09:40 AM