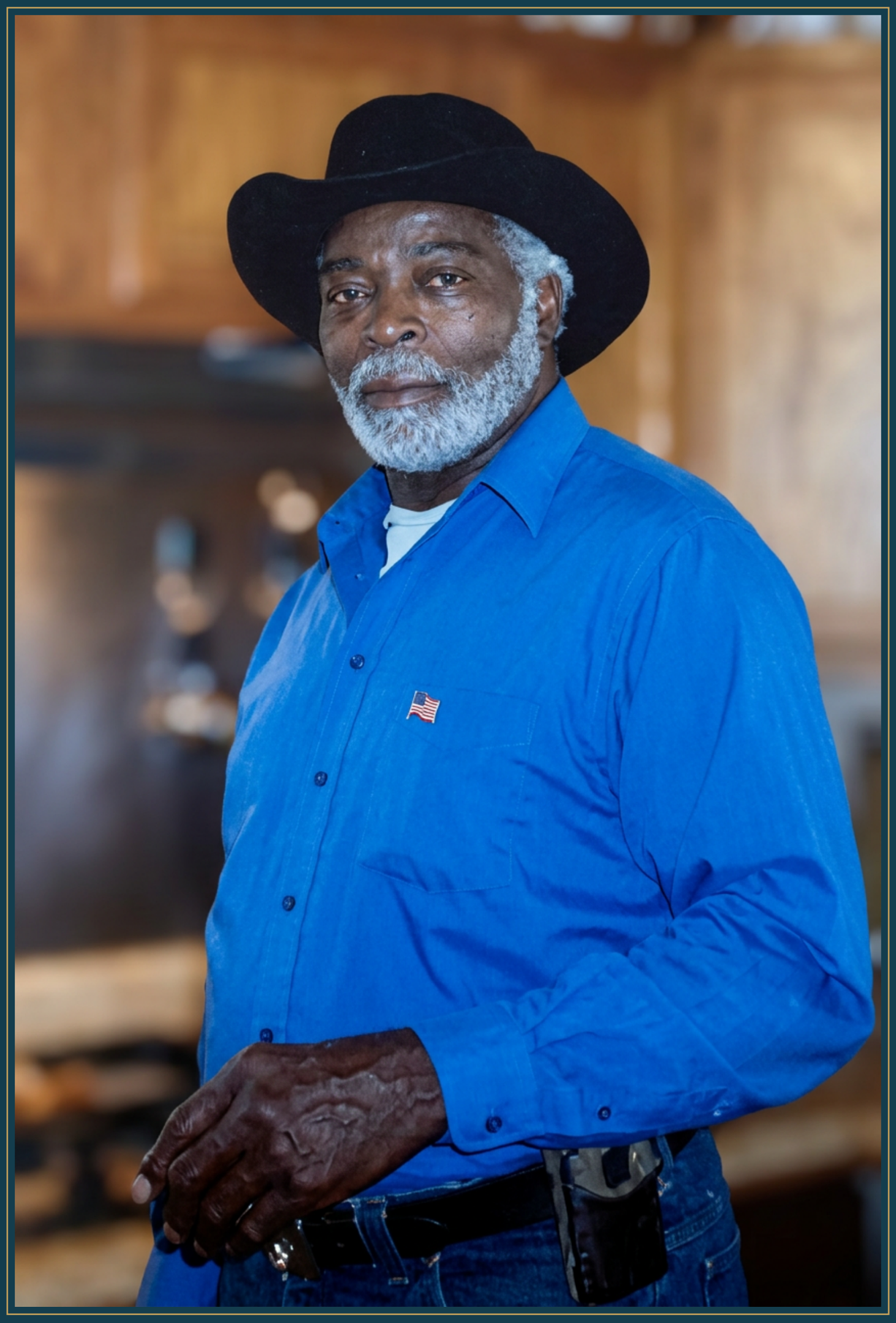
IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Benjamin “Ben” Smith

JULY 17, 1949 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Fayetteville, North Carolina

Rest Peacefully Benjamin

A Life Remembered

Benjamin “Ben” Smith, a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, peacefully departed this life on September 11, 2026.

Ben attended Lucy Laney High School in Augusta, Georgia and was a talented student-athlete. His ability on the football field earned him a scholarship to attend South Carolina State College where he pursued his passion for football. While in school Ben began learning the construction trade during summer breaks and free weekends. Through hard work, determination, and a natural talent for the craft, he eventually became a master carpenter. Ben enjoyed cooking and took pleasure in preparing dishes for family and friends. He was also known for being a jokester with a quick witted sense of humor.

Ben will be lovingly remembered for the life he shared with his family and friends and for the lasting relationships he built throughout his years. He leaves to cherish his memory his daughter, Kendra Cox, and was preceded in death by his daughter, Elizabeth Smith. He is lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Jarian Grant of Columbia, South Carolina; Steven Quan Lewis, Sanchez Smith, Shalyan Smith, Shazmine Smith, Farrel Crawford Jr., and Darron Mountie, all of Augusta, Georgia. His legacy continues through his two great-grandchildren, Natalia Taylor and Maliyah Smith, both of Augusta, Georgia.

Ben is survived by his brothers, Emmanuel “Shaun” Key of Richmond, Virginia; Donald Fruster of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Charlie Tyus of Macon, Georgia. He is also survived by his sisters, Cynthia S. Tariq of Richmond, Virginia; Teresa S. Payne of Monroe, Georgia; Brenda T. Harris, Darnell Jenkins, and Barbara Jean Ellis, all of Macon, Georgia; Emma T. Stanley of Texas; and Trudy Anita Davis and Cathy R. Fruster, both of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Indianna “Della” Smith. He leaves behind four beloved aunts, Kathryn Bradley of Killeen, Texas; Louvenia Jones and Burnistine Young, both of Atlanta, Georgia; and Sarah Smith of Brunswick, Georgia.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents, Exie Mae Key and Sylvester Key, and Charlie Tyus and Lucille Tyus. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, Joe H. Smith, Milton Walker, and Alexander Key, and his sisters, Ernestine Tyus, Diana T. Clowers, and Barbara T. Cliett.

Ben was blessed with friendships that spanned many years. Among those who held a special place in his life was Ms. Clara Shuler, with whom he shared a friendship of more than 50 years. He also treasured the friendship of Tim and Jeanetta Zinzow, Moses “Moe” Purcell, and Benjamin “Chief” Washington, who preceded him in death only weeks before.

Though Ben has left this earthly life, his love and memory will remain with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, extended family, longtime friends, and everyone blessed to have known him. His life was a gift, his memory a treasure, and his legacy will continue through the generations he leaves behind.

Forever in our hearts



Order of Service

01 Opening & Welcome

02 Opening Prayer

03 Scripture Reading

04 Obituary / Life Tribute

05 Family & Friends' Reflections

06 Closing Prayer & Words of Comfort



Brothers Together in Life and Death



Prayer

Lord, thank You for the life of Benjamin and the love he shared with those around him. Comfort his family and friends, and give them strength in the days ahead. May his memory live forever in their hearts, and may he rest peacefully in Your loving arms. Amen.

Poem

Though you are gone from our sight,
Your memory remains our light.
Your love will live through every heart,
And from our lives you'll never part.

Rest Peacefully Benjamin

Special Thanks

The family of Benjamin “Ben” Smith would like to sincerely thank everyone who has offered prayers, love, support, calls, visits, and words of comfort during this difficult time. Your kindness and presence have meant more than words can express.

May God bless each of you for your love and support.