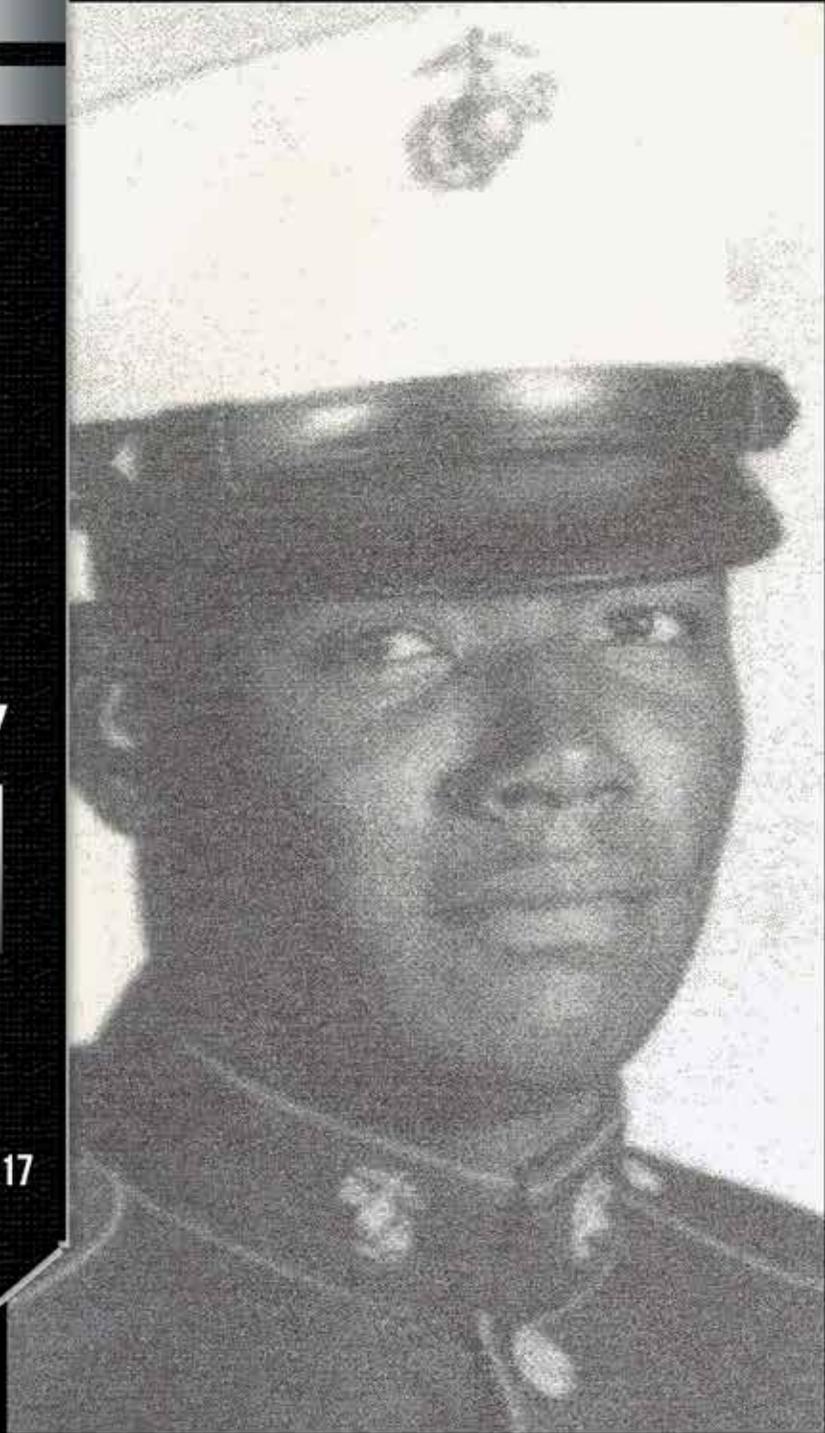




CHARLES BENTLEY
SMITH

Smitty

OCTOBER 24, 1938 - FEBRUARY 28, 2017



TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 | 11 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

GORDON MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2334 HERMAN STREET | NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37208

THE REVEREND CHARLES L. WHITE, JR., SENIOR PASTOR



HEAVEN HAS ONE MORE HERO

*Upon this earth I served with pride
I fought for the red, white and blue
There were many days I was not home
But I always returned home to you*

*When Heaven needed a soldier
I stepped up to answer the call
God's Army is so beautiful
You should see them standing tall.*

*There are no wars in Heaven
No pain or suffering
We gather all the soldiers
Just to hear the angels sing*

*I am serving in God's Army now
I am proud, for Him I strive
To serve His Holy Kingdom
In Christ, I am alive.*

*I have fought a good fight
I have finished my course
I have kept the faith
Henceforth there is laid up for me
A crown of righteousness*



Order of Celebration

Remembering Charles Bentley Smith

Reverend Charles L. White, Jr., Officiant

Minister Vernon Acklin, Assisting

The Prelude

The Processional Members of the Clergy and The Family

The Quiet Hour

The Words of Grace and Greetings

Opening Selection..... The Mass Choir of Gordon Memorial UMC

The Prayer of Comfort

The Scripture Readings

The Old Testament..... Psalm 23

The New Testament II Timothy 4:7-8

The Affirmation of Faith *“The Apostle’s Creed”*

The Gloria Patri

The Ministry of Music

The Reflections Marliana Hawks

The Reading of the Obituary

The Acknowledgements and Resolutions

The Family Tribute..... Barbara Colbert, Sister
Toledo, OH

A Poetic Tribute..... Tiffanie Fletch, Niece

The Selection of Preparation The Mass Choir of Gordon Memorial UMC

The Words of Comfort..... Reverend Charles L. White, Jr., Pastor
Pastor – Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church

The Ministry of Music The Mass Choir of Gordon Memorial UMC

The Commendation

The Benediction

The Recessional..... *Medley of Songs*

*We invite you to come and greet the family at the
repass immediately following the internment in the Barbara Gray Thomas Multipurpose Room.*



Life Reflections



Charles Bentley Smith "Smitty" Semper Fidelis | Always Faithful

Latin for "always faithful," *Semper Fidelis* became the Marine Corps motto in 1883. It guides Marines to remain faithful to the mission at hand, to each other, to the Corps and to country, no matter what.

1938 was the year, the date, Friday, October 28th, the place, Henderson, Kentucky, James B. and Hattie Elder Smith, gave birth to a baby boy and named him Charles Bentley Smith. Charles would be the first of five children born to James and Hattie. The family would later move to Nashville, Tennessee where he would graduate from the historic Pearl High School in 1957. *Always Faithful*

Charles grew up in a home with strong Christian values and early in his life the family became members of Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church. *Always Faithful*



During the Vietnam War when the country called, Charles answered. He first enlisted in the United States Army. He would later transfer to the United States Marine Corps where he served his country valiantly during two tours in Vietnam. Becoming a Marine was a transformational moment in the life of our brother. Dignity, courage and strength best described our brother who proudly wore his uniform. As an African American man in the 60's, a military career allowed him to travel the world.

Semper Fidelis

After his decorated career in uniform, in 1971 Charles returned home to Nashville and began a career with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Nutrition and Food Service as a Dietician Tech. *Always Faithful*

Even after his second retirement, Charles' military training still prevailed. He was a disciplined man, an early riser still, a hard worker and stubborn at times, he was forever a Marine. Although he would later be confined to a wheel chair, it was that stubbornness that made him even stronger and more determined to maintain his independence. *Semper Fidelis*

Nothing else could compare to his love for his family. He was always faithful. He always had great words of advice to his sisters, niece and nephews. We still hear him saying ... "keep God first", or his voice rolling in his wheelchair through the hallways of the VA Hospital yelling, "comin' around, comin' around".

Charles was a news buff and CNN was his network. His pastimes, watching those war movies and National Geographic.



Life Reflections

On Tuesday afternoon, February 28, 2017 our brother received his final orders from the Command-in-Chief of Life, and again he answered the call destined to his final duty station, the city beyond the sky, HEAVEN. You have always been faithful.

So, we his sisters, Barbara Colbert of Toledo, OH, Gladys (Sammie, Jr.) Menzies of Nashville and Gwendolyn (Albert) Sales of Gallatin, TN; his niece, Tiffanie Fletcher and his nephews; Trevell Colbert, Tron, Derrick, Darryl Menzies; friends, Sara Berry and Marlaina Hawks and a host of his great nieces, nephews, cousins and friends are left to carry on his legacy.

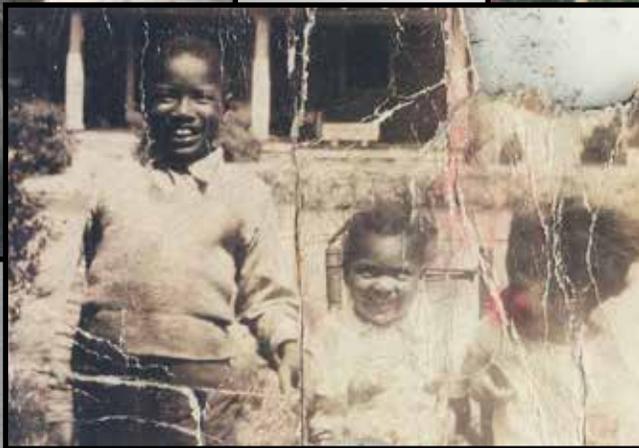
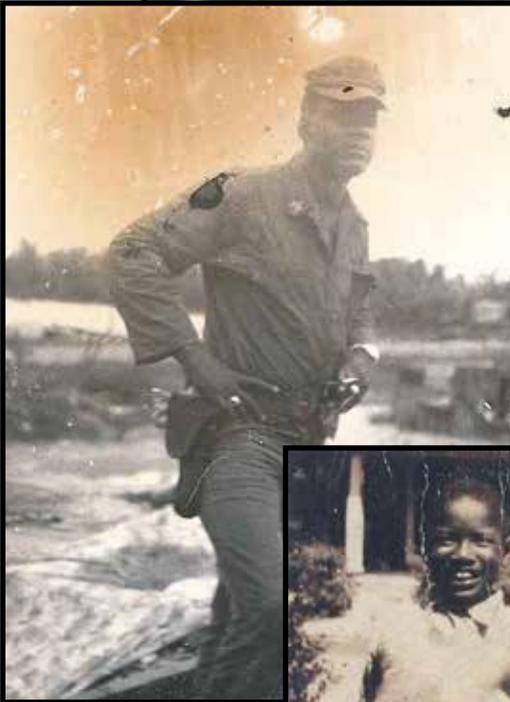
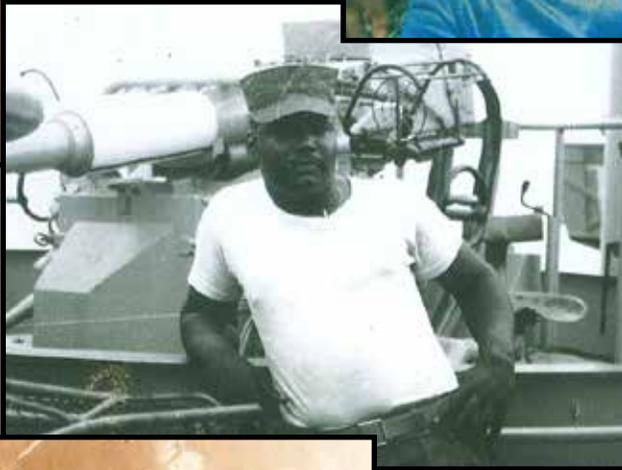


Semper Fidelis ~ *Always Faithful*
Rest in peace brother.

Your Sisters,
Barbara, Gladys and Gwen



Under a flag whose broad stripes continually expand, whose bright stars shine over even more homelands, Marines are woven from the country they serve.



MY BROTHER IS A MARINE

My brother is a Marine----

A guy that would put his life on the line so you do not have to.

My brother is a Marine----

So proud, so true, and at times I wonder WHY? he loves you.

*He goes through Hell most every day, to prepare to go to fight for you
and me.*

My brother is a Marine---

He is the only one I know, that has made his dream come true.

*You gripe and fuss; at times even cuss, the very ones that keep you
free.*

These soldiers start out as boys and earn the respect to be called men.

My brother is a Marine----

To someone who cares enough to die, you only whine.

*You do not
like what they have to do, but they have to live
with the memories and pain after it is all through.*

SEMPER FI

GODSPEED

Interment

Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery
Nashville, Tennessee

Pallbearers

Darryl Menzies
Derrick Menzies
Tyler Fletcher

Tron Menzies
Travell Colbert
Taylen Fletcher

Victor Fletcher, III

Floral Bearers

Ishaya Fletcher

Tiffanie Fletcher

Ikiya Fletcher

Expressions of Gratitude

Our family is most appreciative for the love, prayers, and other expressions of kindness shown to us during this time. Special thanks to the medical staff of St. Thomas Midtown Hospital Medical ICU Staff and the staff of Life Care Center of Old Hickory. We would especially thank the Reverend Sean V. Cook, Sr. and the Key Stewart UMC, Gallatin, TN; the Reverend Wynston Dixon and the Braden UMC, Toledo, OH and the Reverend Charles L. White, Jr. and the Gordon Memorial UMC families for their nurture and care during this time. There are so many others too numerous to list, but

we want to just say,
THANK YOU!

Barbara, Gladys, Gwen & Family



Terrell Broady
Funeral Home, Inc.

3855 Clarksville Pike | Nashville, TN 37218 | Ph: 615-244-4755 | www.terrellbroadyfuneralhome.com

Program Designed by: B. Michael Limited 912.308.5631