



## Joshua "Jay" C. Smith

August 28, 1986 - November 2, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Joshua "Jay" C. Smith, who left this world on Sunday, November 2nd, 2025, at the age of 39. Born on Thursday, August 28, 1986, in Centralia, Illinois, the son of Rodney Thomas and Anna Smith.

Jay was a devoted family man. He dedicated his life to his family and work, serving as a Correctional Officer at the Centralia Correctional Center. He was a man of integrity and strength, qualities that he carried into his career and personal life. Known for his passion for sports, Jay spent many joyful hours on the golf course, in the backyard perfecting his BBQ skills, and on the basketball and baseball courts. He also found immense joy in coaching and sharing these activities with his children. Jay's life was a testament to the importance of family. He found his greatest happiness in the presence of his loved ones, and he leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and cherished memories.

Jay is survived by his mother, Anna Smith of Mt. Vernon; grandmother, Julia Thomas of Centralia; his son, Kaden Richardson of Bluford, IL; his daughter, Jordyn Smith of Mt. Vernon, IL; and his step-son, Noah Richardson of Bluford, IL, Fiancé: Michelle Mosley of Carlyle, and her two sons: Jamar, and Jarryn. His family also includes his brothers and sisters: Andrew Smith and Vonda of Mt. Vernon, Dustin Smith of Mt. Vernon, Antonio Smith of Pennsylvania,

Mariah Cunningham and husband Deontre of Centralia, Sydney Thomas of Marion, Isaiah Thomas of Florida, Nathan Thomas of Nashville, TN, Rodney Thomas, Jr. of Centralia, Jalen Thomas and Shyann of Centralia. Two aunts, Marlena Burton, Pamela Thomas, and one uncle, Seth Thomas. He leaves behind several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and a wide circle of extended family and friends who will miss him dearly.

Jay was predeceased by his father, Rodney Thomas; his beloved daughter, McKenzie Smith; his grandparents, Jerry and Julia Smith; and his grandfather, Ronald Thomas.

A Visitation will be held Friday, November 7, 2025 from Noon until 1:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. A Graveside Service will follow at Elmwood Cemetery with Pastor Val Powe officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the family and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to Jay's Family during this difficult time. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Funeral Home Facebook page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 7. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Graveside Service

NOV 7. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Elmwood Cemetery  
710 Gragg Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Joshua "Jay" C. Smith*



**Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services** - November 07, 2025 at 10:04 AM

YV

*Josh, we will miss you dearly! You were loved by us all. One person seemed dominated the video slides.*

**Yvonne** - November 11, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ *When I was 15 I was placed into a residential program that Josh worked at. He made that time there enjoyable. He was one of my favorite staff workers. He genuinely cared about the kids. He made a huge impact on my child hood. This one hits me hard as he was a huge blessing in my life as a troubled teenager. ❤️*



**Tommi Burnett** - November 08, 2025 at 11:05 AM

SC

“ I was blessed enough to have Josh as a camp counselor and that's how we first met. He was the best mentor I could've asked for and he went out of his way to stay in contact and check up on me through our all these years. At one of the most confusing times of my life, he helped me find my way. Josh has always been a guide to those around him and he'll continue to be someone I look upto. I'll always be Chevy Shavell. Until we meet again.



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**shavell cummings** - November 07, 2025 at 02:19 PM

SB

“ Sending Hugs, Love and Prayers to the entire Family His kids, mother Anna sister and brother, Grandmother and Aunts, Uncles, I remember when Josh was little at Trudy's house asking for some candy and Enjoy working with him at Murray Center, My Condolences to you all from the Barnes Family.

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**Shirlena Barnes** - November 07, 2025 at 08:51 AM

LM

“ Our daughter was your Lady Bug.  
This week, our home was covered in ladybugs .. a reminder that love does not end, and neither do you. I will help her hold your memory gently, and we will trust God to carry us through.  
Rest in His peace, Joshua Caleb ☐  
– Lady Bug’s Mommy



LaTrenda Meyer - November 07, 2025 at 05:44 AM



Praying for you both!

Tommi Burnett - November 08, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joshua "Jay" C. Smith.



November 06, 2025 at 12:16 PM

JM

“ Jessica, Karen, Chris & Sara Modert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joshua "Jay" C. Smith.

Jessica, Karen, Chris & Sara Modert - November 06, 2025 at 11:59 AM

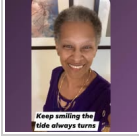
JM

“ Jessica, Karen, Chris & Sara Modert purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joshua "Jay" C. Smith.



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**Jessica, Karen, Chris & Sara Modert** - November 06, 2025 at  
11:59 AM



“ I love you Joshua

*I Am trusting Gods perfect timing although we weren't ready for you to leave us, I know beyond knowing you are the happiest soul being reunited with Dad because I keep experiencing new waves of Gods presence*

*Ladybugs are everywhere* 🍷🍷🍷

*I Am so grateful that you were blessed to be a part of our family and had strong family values*

*We are all waiting in line, it's just a matter of time before we get to love beyond belief*

*Anna & Family my condolences*

*Trust God to strengthen you & cherish the memories. We have so many pics, no way to share them all, most people don't know lil*

*Joshua & I can't leave without sharing his best friend the ☐ !!*

*We had many laughs about him always being in the☐*

*I 🍷 you*



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**Marlena Thomas Burton** - November 05, 2025 at 08:57 PM