

## *Obituary*

James Leroy Smith was born July 5, 1926 to Mable and AG Smith of Oklahoma. He departed this life on September 7, 2014. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Audrey Smith, a son and daughter Kaochee (Calvin) and Cheata Smith, sisters Vivian Greene and Helen Foots and many grandchildren, stepchildren, foster children, relatives and friends.

James Smith a devoted husband and father was a self-made entrepreneur. As a young man he worked as a domestic worker for many years prior to building a comfortable living as a business man. During his lifetime he owned a grocery store, a farm, and various real estate properties from which he supported his family.

He not only raised Kaochee and Cheata, but he with the help of his first wife Othella Smith (who preceded him in death) raised his stepchildren Mary King and Clifford Collins, as well as numerous foster children, some whom he reared from small children to adulthood. He will be remembered fondly by his grandchildren, nieces and nephews as PaPa and Uncle James.

He always took time to share a laugh and offer advice on a variety of subjects, particularly building your own wealth.

He was instrumental in helping several relatives gain employment through his contacts in his many business ventures. If asked, I am sure many of his grandchildren would say he was their hero and Father in the absence of another.

May God Keep him in his loving care as he enters eternal rest is our prayer. Amen!