

# Press



# Release

## George L. Doherty Funeral Service, Inc.

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### Herman J. Smith

(March 26, 1922 - February 9, 2011)

Herman J. Smith passed peacefully from this life at West Roxbury VA Hospital on February 9, 2011.

Mr. Smith was born in Natchez, Louisiana on March 22, 1922 to father, Valery Smith and mother Louise Moody Smith. Herman was a decorated war hero. He is a Marine Corporal who courageously fought for his country in one tour of service during World War II from 1943 thru 1946 and a tour of duty in the Korean war. Herman was a member of the Montford Point Marine Association an organization honoring the first African Americans allowed by the US to serve as Marines, the organization's motto is: "To promote and preserve the strong bonds of friendship born from shared adversities and to devote ourselves to the furtherance of these accomplishments to ensure more peaceful times."



Although he was part of a segregated military, he served proudly for his country. Herman was honorably discharged from his military service in 1951. Herman was a self-made man who worked for many years at the Boston Naval Shipyard and developed many entrepreneurial businesses. A religious man, Herman was a Deacon for many years at Rockview Street Baptist church in Jamaica Plains, MA and then at Winthrop Street Baptist in Taunton, MA. He was loved by all who knew him especially for his smile that would light up the room and his warm personality. A loving father, grandfather, great grandfather, husband and friend he leaves behind eight children - Herman J. Smith Jr. Associate Justice, Middlesex Superior Court, of Medford MA; Valarie Smith, former teacher and artist, of Taunton, MA; Phil Smith US Army and entrepreneur and his spouse Linda Smith of Brockton, MA; Jennifer Smith Turner, a poet and CEO Girls Scouts of CT and her spouse Eric V. Turner, Esquire of CT; Bradley Smith, former Insurance executive and entrepreneur and his spouse Lorraine Smith of Taunton MA; Ben Vero and his spouse Lindsay of Attleboro, MA; Jerome Smith a Specialist in the Army serving in Afghanistan; Mathew Smith of Brockton, MA and numerous grand children and great grand children. His grandson Marine Sergeant Phillip Smith Jr., who received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for professional achievement for superior performance of his duties in combat in support of operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, stood lovingly at his side during his grandfather's prolonged illness.

Herman is predeceased by his first wife, Margaree L. Smith, his parents and many siblings including his younger brother Lee Smith who also served his country with honor.

A military graveside burial will be held at Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, MA 508-563-7713; Monday February 14, 2011 at 10:30 am.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Montford Point Marine Association,  
[www.montfordpointmarines.com](http://www.montfordpointmarines.com)

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