



## VanQuilla Smith, Jr.

August 23, 1972 - June 8, 2025

VanQuilla Smith Jr., age 52 of Minneapolis, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2025. He was preceded in death by his mother, Irene Buckner; sister, Donita Williams; and grandparents, Queen and Theodore Smith and Otis and Mary Griffin. VanQuilla will be deeply missed by his loving wife of 26 years, Marsha; children, Quiana Cox, Gayneatha McNair, JaVae Williams, Johnny Williams, and Frederick Williams; his father, VanQuilla Smith Sr.; 15 grandchildren, one great-grandchild; siblings Vansetta Smith and Billie Buckner; many other loving family members and friends. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 11 AM with visitation starting at 9:30 AM at Washburn-McReavy Crystal Lake Chapel, 3816 Penn Ave. N, Minneapolis.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 21. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Crystal Lake Chapel  
3816 Penn Avenue N.  
Minneapolis, MN 55412

## Funeral Service

JUN 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Crystal Lake Chapel  
3816 Penn Avenue N.  
Minneapolis, MN 55412

# Tribute Wall

AM

“ *This is so heartbreaking, all my love and condolences to his family. I worked with Mr. Smith at Bryn Mawr for many years and he was so good with his kids, always a calm presence, patient, and loyal to the T. Even though he liked the Dallas Cowboys, as soon as I found out he was also an Iowa Hawkeye fan (and we had Des Moines in common), it more than made up for it. He loved sharing things he did with his family and grandkids during my classroom meetings, and it was obvious he deeply loved them. He’s left a legacy behind him, and will be forever missed.*

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**Aaron May** - June 18, 2025 at 05:46 PM

KS

“ *Keena Smith lit a candle in memory of VanQuilla Smith, Jr.*



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**Keena Smith** - June 17, 2025 at 11:19 PM

AM

*I’m so sorry to hear this, worked with him for many years and he was an amazing and well loved teacher who is going to be missed so much. My heart goes out to his family, all my love and condolences.*

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**Aaron May** - June 18, 2025 at 03:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of VanQuilla Smith, Jr..*



June 17, 2025 at 11:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of VanQuilla Smith, Jr..

June 17, 2025 at 11:16 PM



“ *My Deepest Condolences To The Smith Family 🙏🏾 U was a good guy Van, I wish I had the chance to kick it with yall 1 more time. U definitely gonna be missed but the good thing is u don't have to see the Cowboys no more lol Love U Fam, Rest Up 🙏🏾*



Michigan MannE - June 13, 2025 at 01:14 PM



“ *You were more than a cousin you were a brother to me too I will carry your memory in my heart always*



Gabon McQueen - June 11, 2025 at 08:41 PM

KE

“ *Kejora lit a candle in memory of VanQuilla Smith, Jr.*



**Kejora** - June 11, 2025 at 03:46 PM

KC

“ *Kim Collins lit a candle in memory of VanQuilla Smith, Jr.*



**kim Collins** - June 11, 2025 at 08:40 AM

KC

*Uncle van we love you and you will be missed*

**kim Collins** - June 11, 2025 at 08:42 AM

PC

“ *I worked with Mr. Smith for 5 years at Bryn Mawr. He was the best co-worker ever. He kept our class on point. His silence was very powerful and he was very reliable. He did not like cheese and he loved New Edition. He will be truly missed.*

**Pauline Cotton** - June 10, 2025 at 06:50 PM

MI

*Mia  
I worked with Mr. Smith  
He was such a kind person he loved working with the kids.  
He stayed the same everything you see him. If he could help you he would. Just all around good people..He will be missed God bless his family*

**Mia** - June 17, 2025 at 03:30 PM

AC

“ Mr Smith was a great guy! I worked with him at Bryn Mawr I was the PE teacher and him and I would always take on the kids in basketball and floor hockey along with so many other games and sports. He was a guy all about kids! When his kids and grandkids would out grow their tennis shoes he would bring them into the gym for the kids to wear. He helped so many students learn to read and do math over the years he was a good. teacher. No matter what if you asked Mr Smith to help he always did. He will always be watching over his family as their guardian angel. Blessings Anita(former PE Teacher Bryn Mawr)

Anita Chavez - June 10, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ I worked with Mr. Smith for 20 years at Bryn Mawr Elementary. When ever me son would see him he would ask about the dog he had (Spike). Mr Smith would just laugh.

Regina Taylor - June 10, 2025 at 06:21 PM

ED

“ My most precious memory it's so many it could be first time him my sista met I was there or could be when he help me get back home he been real role model to me when I had none love you more then you could ever know

eugene davis - June 10, 2025 at 04:57 PM

CG

“ Your life was a blessing, and your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure, We love you Van your smile, forever lives in my heart. Cousin Christal

Christal Gatewood - June 10, 2025 at 04:55 PM