

Grady S. Smith Jr.

Grady Samuel Smith Jr., 62, of Miami, entered the sunset of life Monday, Feb. 5, 2007, at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami following a brief illness.

Grady was a native of East Palatka and resided in Miami for over 40 years. At an early age, he became a member of Bethel AME Church. Grady was educated in Putnam County School District and a graduate of Central Academy, Class of 1961, where he was a star athlete in track and field under the guidance of coaches Cooper, Moore and White. Grady continued his education at Florida A&M University, where he was affectionately known as the "Road Runner" as he participated in track & field events.

In 1965, he earned his bachelor of science degree in mathematics at FAMU. He started his career with the Miami-Dade County Public School District and retired from Hialeah Miami Lakes Sr. High School following a 30-year professional teaching career.

His beloved mother, Margaret Burke Roberts and father, Grady Samuel Smith Sr., preceded him in eternal rest.

To cherish his memories, children, Tarrence Smith of Tallahassee and Dedra K. Smith of Miami; loving stepfather, James W. Roberts Jr. of Palatka; loving sister, Paula R. (Charles) Goodrum of Palatka; sisters, Cassandra (Samuel) Allen of Jacksonville and Cindy Lou Baker of Miami; brother, Oscar Walker of Jacksonville; five grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and caring friends.

Visitation for family and friends will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday (today), at the "Chapel of Serenity." Homegoing services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at Bethel AME Church, 719 Reid St., Palatka, the Rev. James McGriff, pastor, is the Eulogist. Interment will follow in Pattersonville Memorial Cemetery in East Palatka.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Karl N. Flagg Serenity Memorial Chapel of Palatka.