



Nathaniel Baker Smith III

July 15, 1961 - November 17, 2025

Nathaniel Baker Smith III., affectionately known to many as Nate, was born on July 15, 1961, in Charlotte, North Carolina. On November 17, 2025, he quietly exchanged this earthly life for eternal peace, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to echo for generations.

Nate was educated in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System and graduated from South Mecklenburg High School, Class of 1979. He continued his education at St. Andrews University, where he played on the basketball team and majored in Communications. He later transferred to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), where he discovered and deepened his passion for media, music, and entertainment.

Nate's love for the industry was evident early on. In 1981, he launched his radio career with WGIV, which became the foundation for what would grow into a lifelong journey in entertainment. His voice, creativity, and dedication quickly made him a respected figure in the community.

Nate was a man of many talents. After transitioning from WGIV to Cable Vision, he became widely known as DJ Magic, a name that left a lasting mark on Charlotte's nightlife scene. His love for creativity and genuine connection with people naturally led him into entrepreneurship, where he continued to inspire, innovate, and impact those around him.

In 1992, he founded Mega Com Productions, which led to him owning several clubs throughout Charlotte, as well as in both North and South Carolina. His well-known Black Comedy Jam on Tuesday nights at the Comedy Zone became a beloved staple in the city. Along with Jazz'n Jammin' Sundays at CJ's in the Adams Mark Hotel, these events stood among his most impactful and memorable contributions to the community.

He had an extraordinary gift for spotting talent. Nate launched ITS Comedy LLC, where he mentored and managed both up-and-coming and established comedians—many of whom credit him for giving them their very first opportunity. Nate was a legendary pioneer in the industry, known not just for what he built, but for how he built it—helping people, opening doors, and believing in others long before they believed in themselves.

Nate retired in 2022, and he spent his retirement days as a loving and devoted grandfather. His grandchildren were the light of his world

Nate was preceded in death by his mother, Carlene Martin; his father, Nathaniel Baker Smith Jr.; and his beloved daughter, Dr. Tasia Smith.

He leaves to cherish his memory seven children: Natalie Smith Hancock (James), Maurice Stafford (Crystal), Andre Smith (Tabitha), Emerald Staton-Smith, Nathaniel Baker Smith IV (Sera), and Jordan Smith, along with his Godson, Shawn McLendon.

He is also survived by five siblings: Stephanie Smith-Bryant, John Derrick Smith, Vernoca Gray, Ruth Meeks (Weldon), and Alexander Gray (Cynthia).

Nate was blessed with 16 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, extended family, friends, and the countless

lives he touched.

Nate lived boldly, fully, and unapologetically himself. His presence filled every room, his laughter carried, his generosity reached far, and his legacy will continue through the many people he poured into. His life was a story of talent, hustle, heart, and profound impact—and the memory of who he was will be held close forever.

Cemetery Details

Gethsemane Memorial Gardens

1504 W. Sugar Creek Road
Charlotte, NC

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 29. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Ebenezer Baptist Church
2020 W. Sugar Creek Road
Charlotte, NC 28262

Celebration of Life Service

NOV 29. 2:30 PM (ET)

Ebenezer Baptist Church
2020 W. Sugar Creek Road
Charlotte, NC 28262

Entombment

NOV 29. 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Gethsemane Memorial Gardens
1504 W. Sugar Creek Road
Charlotte, NC

Tribute Wall



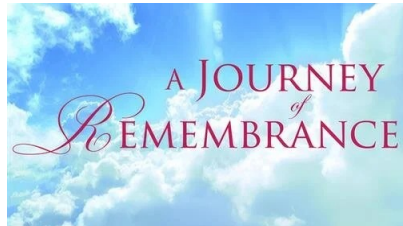
“ A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. created a Tribute Video in memory of Nathaniel Baker Smith III



A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. - November 29, 2025 at 02:22 PM



“ A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. created a Tribute Video in memory of Nathaniel Baker Smith III



A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. - November 26, 2025 at 01:45 PM

BL

RIP

Barbara Lynn - November 28, 2025 at 01:29 PM

CE

“ *Rest in Peace Baker. We lived beside each other on Biddle Street many years ago.*



Cheryl Edwards-Williamson - December 01, 2025 at 01:57 PM

SC

“ *Star Quality Merch (Ike Smith & Crew) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.*



Star Quality Merch (Ike Smith & Crew) - November 28, 2025 at 11:47 AM

MF

“ *Melika A Friend. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.*



Melika A Friend. - November 28, 2025 at 11:19 AM

MF

“ *Marvin Phipps and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.*

Marvin Phipps and Family - November 27, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.



November 27, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ Larry and Tonya Latter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.

Larry and Tonya Latter - November 26, 2025 at 10:09 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.



November 26, 2025 at 10:09 PM



“ Kevin K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.

Kevin K. - November 26, 2025 at 09:30 PM

DW

“ Don Wehner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.

Don Wehner - November 26, 2025 at 03:59 PM

DW

“ Don Wehner purchased the Strength & Solace S pray for the family of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.



Don Wehner - November 26, 2025 at 03:59 PM



“ 92 files added to the album Life Tributes



A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. - November 26, 2025 at 12:23 PM

ST

“ *Scott Tydings purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Nathaniel Baker Smith III.*



Scott Tydings - November 26, 2025 at 11:50 AM