

# Soldier, James 'Mailman' Smith Remembered

Funeral services were held Monday at Genesis Community Fellowship for James A. Smith who died after a year of illness on Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007 at home surrounded by his family, children, grandchildren and close friends. He was affectionately known as Baby James, Jimmy and Mailman.

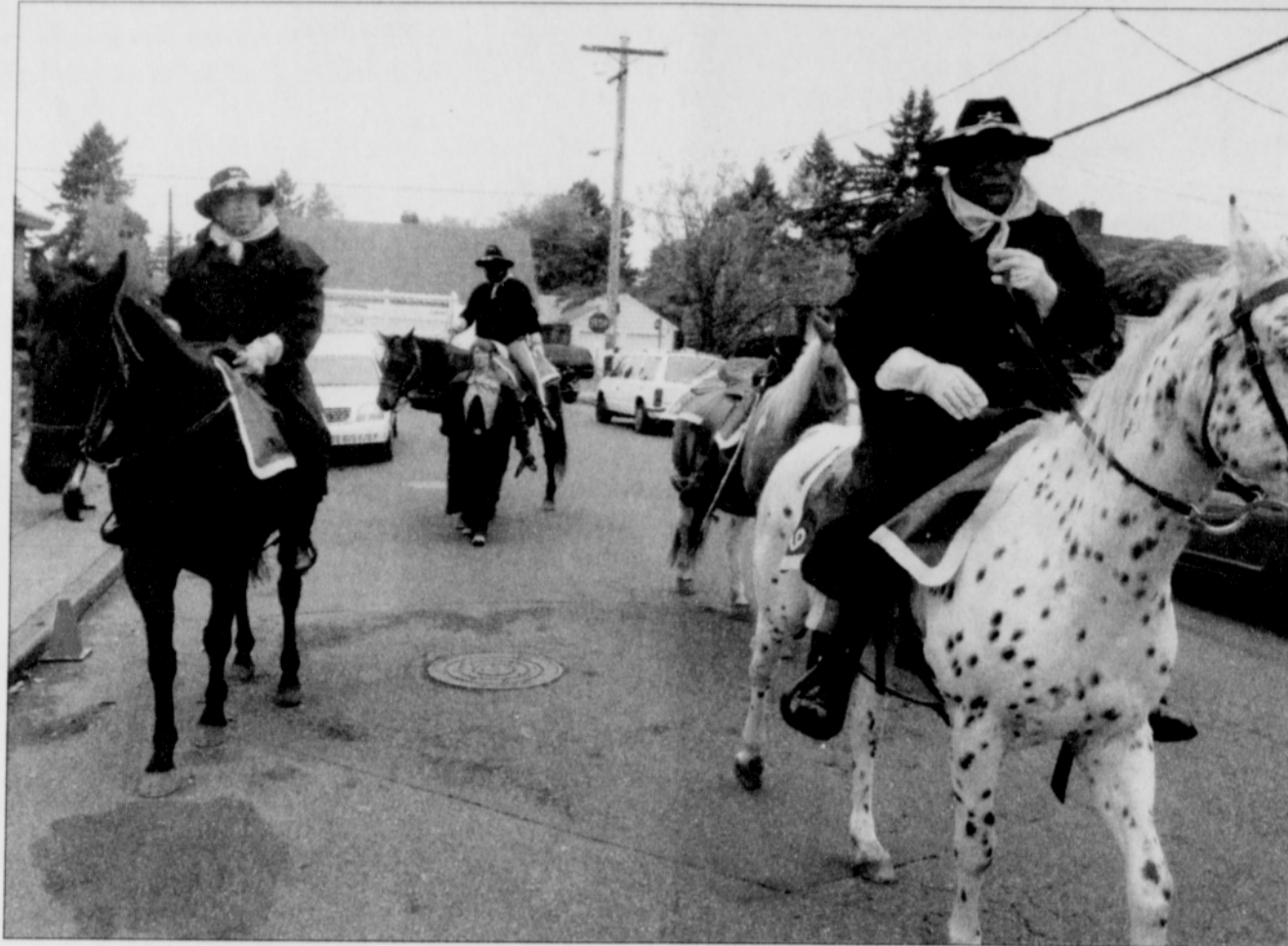
He was born on Nov. 30, 1937 in Clarksdale, Miss., an area known as "the Delta" and "Home of the Blues." He recommitted his life to the Lord Jesus before his death, repented of his sins and made peace with his God and was ready to "go home." He fought the good fight and ran the race until the end. His favorite hymn was "Nearer my God to Thee."

He moved to Portland in 1985 after 35 years of active duty service in the Army. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in Portland after 20 years of service in July. He loved being a soldier, especially a Buffalo Soldier and served his community by raising awareness of the importance of African-American history. He always made sure that soldiers were never forgotten.

He loved the music of the Blues and yearly attended the Blues festival at Moran Freeman's Blues Club in his hometown of Clarksdale. Many people and children lovingly knew him as "Mailman." He was fun-



James A. Smith



A local contingent of Buffalo Soldiers is part of the procession that arrives at Genesis Community Fellowship in northeast Portland Monday for the funeral of fellow Buffalo Soldier James 'Mailman' Smith who died Oct. 4 at the age of 69.

loving, loved people and was always smiling. He also loved horses, gardening, playing dominoes and pool, and fashioned himself as a photographer.

He had 12 sisters and brothers, seven children, 16 grandchildren and great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by parents Chambers Smith who raised him; biological father Leander Holden; mother Laurel Smith; sisters Geneva Gates, Pearl Mae Parker, Zenobia Prevot; and brothers Chambers Smith and Michael Holden.

He is survived by Gloria Smith who he was married for 35 years; brother Stanley (Edna) Smith of Chicago; sisters Jessie Mae Pitman of Indianapolis, Cleotha (George) Holden Strong, Arlington Holden and Lucille Holden-Shaw of Los Angeles, and Rubye and Verle Holden of Clarksdale and Ethel Holden-Jennings of Atlanta; children Alvin T. (Adonna) Morris of St. Louis, Eleanor (Benjamin) Howard of Chicago, Donald Neal of Nashville, Brenda Dizer-Coe and son-in-law Joseph Coe of Las Vegas, James A. Smith Jr. of Kuwait, Charles A. Smith Sr. and Pierre (Kathy) Smith of Portland; grandchildren Ryan Morris, Kevin Brown, Russell Dizer Jr., Erin Dizer, Nicole Bagby, Candace Alexander, Alexandria Smith, Charles A. Smith II, Ashley Smith and Marcus Smith, Destiny and Taliyaha Neal, and great grandchildren Nicholas Bagby, Gabriel Alexander, and Nashya Cuthbertson, and Tyus Jackson, and caretakers Leola Hopson and Mary Johnson of Vancouver.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Fifty Years of Links

continued ▲ from Front

their visit to "Oregon Territory," but soon became impressed with their sisters' equal if not greater sense of purpose.

The fundraising event began with a few sets of folding chairs in a neighborhood facility used for woodcrafting, tickets going for \$3.50 apiece, but has grown to pack the Convention Center with wine, food and tables starting at \$75 a seat. What the original fair lacked in elegance, it made up for in passion, agree Walker and Williams.

As with most of the 275 chapters of Links, including more than 10,000

women nationwide, the Portland group has expanded its focus from youth and civil-rights issues to include health concerns.

To kick off the 50th-anniversary weekend of festivities, Portland Links will present Pastor Mary Overstreet-Smith with a 2007 meritorious award from the entire western cluster of Links to honor her work with Katrina evacuees. The free ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

The next day, Saturday, Nov. 3 a \$75 dinner and dance will take place at 6 p.m. in the downtown Embassy Suites.

## Ask Deanna!

Real People,  
Real Advice



An advice  
column  
known for  
reality-based  
subjects!

### Dear Deanna!

My husband is very selfish and inconsiderate. We have a healthy relationship, our finances are good and we are good parents to our children. The biggest issue in the relationship is the fact he won't help with anything. I have to do all the shopping, cleaning, planning for activities and everything to run

the household and our lives. If I don't do things, he'll sit like a lump on a log. If things don't get done, we argue. How can I get him to meet me in the middle? --Happy But Tired; Toledo, Ohio

### Dear Tired:

Your husband is a lost cause if you don't have him trained or house broken by now. You should look on the bright side and be glad he has a job, he's not abusive and he's involved with the children instead of being on a milk carton like a dead-beat dad. Take an analysis of the pros and cons in your marriage, and if the negatives are more than the positives, seek counseling, hang in there and do the best you can to motivate your

husband and get him moving.

### Dear Deanna!

I bought a car from a friend and it was a huge mistake. After I got the car it broke down, started leaking oil and the transmission went bad. Because we're friends, I thought we could work it out, and I would get some of my money back. I approached him about these issues and he told me it wasn't his problem. I don't know what to do because a mechanic told me he had the car fixed just enough to sell it. I feel betrayed and want to know if I can sue him? --Melinda; Boston

### Dear Melinda:

Your friend ripped you off by

selling you a lemon and left you with a silly look on your face. There's not much you can do unless you have documents, the terms of the sale and similar paperwork you would normally receive from a dealership. Your car is on the road dead, your friendship is ruined and your money is gone. It's worth going to small-claims court because he didn't think about you, so you should handle your business and get ready to see the judge.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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