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March 4, 2025

Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, TN 37214-2508

Re: IN THE MATTER OF
Ronald L. Smith, Deceased
Docket no. PR031932

Dear Sirs:

I am enclosing with this letter a copy of a Petition to Relocate Remains which has been filed in the Probate Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, and served upon you pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 46-4-103(c).

The judge has set this matter for hearing on April 2, 2025, at 9 a.m. If you need additional time or if this date is not convenient, please advise me and I will be happy to reschedule.

Sincerely,

Theresa H. Patterson

/THP
Enclosures

Cc: W.C. Smith

w/enclosures

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

IN THE MATTER OF:

RONALD L. SMITH, DECEASED

W.C. SMITH, PETITIONER

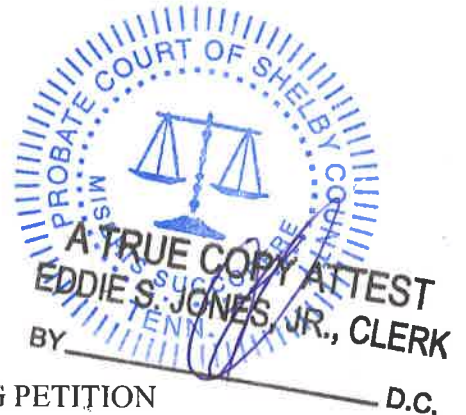
DOCKET NO: PR031932

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: TN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2941 LEBANON PIKE

NASHVILLE, TN 37214



YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE FOLLOWING PETITION
OR MOTION HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS MATTER:

PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS

A HEARING WILL BE HELD ON THIS PETITION OR MOTION ON THE

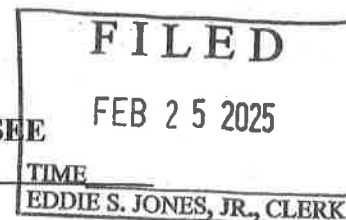
2ND DAY OF APRIL, 2025 AT 9 O'CLOCK A M.

IN DIVISION 2 OF THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY
COUNTY, TENNESSEE, 140 ADAMS AVENUE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

YOUR INTERESTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY THIS HEARING AND YOU ARE
ENTITLED TO BE PRESENT IF YOU SO DESIRE.

THIS _____, MAR 04 2025, 20 _____.





IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No. *PR031932*

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**

v.

HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY COMPANY,

Defendant.

**MICHAEL SMITH, RUBY KIMBLE,
CAROLYN BROCK, SHIRLEY ADAMS
BEVERLY WATSON, DEBORAH WALKER
AND SANDRA HARRIS**

INTERESTED PERSONS

PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 46-4-101, Petitioner W.C. Smith ("Petitioner"), requests that this Court enter an order permitting Petitioner to have his deceased brother's remains removed and reinterred. In support of this Petition, Petitioner alleges the following:

1. Petitioner, W. C. Smith, is a resident citizen of Shelby County, Tennessee, with a residence located at 3680 Summerset Cove, Bartlett, Tennessee 38135.
2. The following parties are surviving heirs/siblings of the decedent, and are "Interested Persons" as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. §46-4-102: Michael Smith, 5516 Banbury Cove, Memphis, TN 38135, Ruby Kimble, 7488 Alston Avenue, Hesperia, CA 92345; Carolyn Brock, 2403 Lake Garden Drive, Memphis, TN 38134; Shirley Adams, 5367

Twin Valley Lane, Memphis, TN 38135; Beverly Watson, 2201 Durham Street, Memphis, TN 38127; Deborah Walker, 5629 Autumn Valley Drive, Memphis, TN 38127; and Sandra Harris, 2583 Van Eaton Lane, Memphis, TN 38133. All surviving siblings have executed statements, under penalty of perjury, confirming their desire to appoint Petitioner as Administrator ad Litem, for the sole purpose of relocation of the remains of the decedent, Ronald L. Smith. (See collective exhibit 1 attached).

3. An exact copy of this Petition is being served on the Tennessee Historical Commission in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. §46-4-103(c).
4. The subject real property ("the Property") where the remains are located is 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, TN 38106. The owner of the property is Defendant Hollywood Cemetery Company, a for-profit Tennessee Corporation which was dissolved on August 17, 2009. See Exhibits "2" and "3".
5. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §16-11-102(a).
6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §46-4-1013 and §16-11-114 because the property is located within Shelby County, Tennessee.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

7. Petitioner is the brother of Ronald Smith ("Decedent"), born April 10, 1957, and died on May 21, 1981, as a result of a workplace accident.
8. Following his death, the decedent was buried at the Hollywood Cemetery.
9. Since 1981, the cemetery grounds have become overgrown with weeds such that the burial site is no longer visible.

10. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §46-4-101, the Property is unsuitable for use as a burial ground and as a resting place for the deceased. The Property is in a neglected state and has been abandoned by the owner and is no longer operated as a cemetery.
11. Petitioner has contracted with J.E. Herndon Funeral Home, in Memphis, Tennessee for the disinterment, relocation and reburial of the decedent, which will be at Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.
12. Petitioners have developed definite and appropriate arrangements for the disinterment, relocation and reburial of the decedent and will proceed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and with due care, respect and decency. A suitable memorial will be erected at the place of reinterment.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Petitioner respectfully requests that the following relief be granted:

1. That, following a hearing in this cause, the Court issue a Final Order that authorizes Petitioner to remove and rebury the decedent in accordance with applicable law.
2. For such other and further relief as this Court deems proper.

Respectfully submitted,




Theresa H. Patterson #14188
44 N. Second Street, Suite 604
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 523-0177
Attorney for Petitioner, W.C. Smith

OATH

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

I, W.C. Smith, after being first duly sworn, make oath that the statements contained in the foregoing Petition are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.


W.C. SMITH

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of January, 2025.


Notary Public

My commission expires:



IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**

v.

HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY COMPANY,

Defendant.

**MICHAEL SMITH, RUBY KIMBLE,
CAROLYN BROCK, SHIRLEY ADAMS
BEVERLY WATSON, DEBORAH WALKER
AND SANDRA HARRIS**

INTERESTED PERSONS

COLLECTIVE EXHIBIT "A"
PAGES 1-7

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**

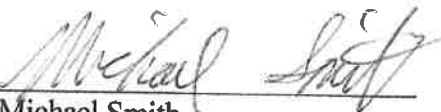
**STATEMENT REGARDING PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS OF
RONALD L. SMITH and APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE ADMINISTRATOR AD LITEM**

I, Michael Smith, brother of the deceased and the Petitioner, state that it is my desire for the remains of my brother, Ronald L. Smith be removed from the Hollywood Cemetery, located at 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38106 to Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.

I nominate W.C. Smith to serve as administrator ad litem for the sole purpose of the relocation of the remains of Ronald L. Smith.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on 1/5/2025


Michael Smith
5516 Banbury Cove
Memphis, TN 38135

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**


**STATEMENT REGARDING PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS OF
RONALD L. SMITH and APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE ADMINISTRATOR AD LITEM**

I, Ruby Kimble, sister of the deceased and the Petitioner, state that it is my desire for the remains of my brother, Ronald L. Smith be removed from the Hollywood Cemetery, located at 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38106 to Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.

I nominate W.C. Smith to serve as administrator ad litem for the sole purpose of the relocation of the remains of Ronald L. Smith.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on 01-09-2025



Ruby Kimble
7488 Alston Road
Hesperia, CA 92345

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**


**STATEMENT REGARDING PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS OF
RONALD L. SMITH and APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE ADMINISTRATOR AD LITEM**

I, Carolyn Brock, sister of the deceased and the Petitioner, state that it is my desire for the remains of my brother, Ronald L. Smith be removed from the Hollywood Cemetery, located at 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38106 to Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.

I nominate W.C. Smith to serve as administrator ad litem for the sole purpose of the relocation of the remains of Ronald L. Smith.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on 1/18/2025


Carolyn Brock
2403 Lake Garden Drive
Memphis, TN 38134

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**

**STATEMENT REGARDING PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS OF
RONALD L. SMITH and APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE ADMINISTRATOR AD LITEM**

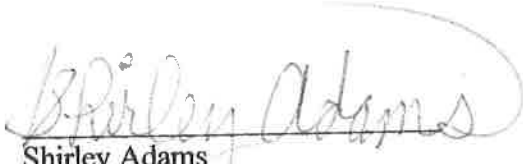
I, Shirley Adams, sister of the deceased and the Petitioner, state that it is my desire for the remains of my brother, Ronald L. Smith be removed from the Hollywood Cemetery, located at 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38106 to Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.

I nominate W.C. Smith to serve as administrator ad litem for the sole purpose of the relocation of the remains of Ronald L. Smith.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on

1/08/2025


Shirley Adams
5367 Twin Valley Lane
Memphis, TN 38135

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**

**STATEMENT REGARDING PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS OF
RONALD L. SMITH and APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE ADMINISTRATOR AD LITEM**

I, Beverly Watson, sister of the deceased and the Petitioner, state that it is my desire for the remains of my brother, Ronald L. Smith be removed from the Hollywood Cemetery, located at 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38106 to Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.

I nominate W.C. Smith to serve as administrator ad litem for the sole purpose of the relocation of the remains of Ronald L. Smith.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on 1-5-25
Beverly

Beverly Watson
Beverly Watson
2201 Durham Street
Memphis, TN 38127

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**

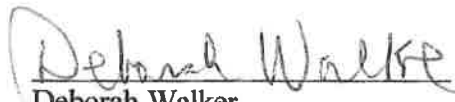
**STATEMENT REGARDING PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS OF
RONALD L. SMITH and APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE ADMINISTRATOR AD LITEM**

I, Deborah Walker, sister of the deceased and the Petitioner, state that it is my desire for the remains of my brother, Ronald L. Smith be removed from the Hollywood Cemetery, located at 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38106 to Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.

I nominate W.C. Smith to serve as administrator ad litem for the sole purpose of the relocation of the remains of Ronald L. Smith.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on January 5, 2025


Deborah Walker
5629 Autumn Valley Drive
Memphis, TN 38135

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

**IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD L. SMITH,**

Deceased.

No.

**W.C. SMITH,
Petitioner.**


**STATEMENT REGARDING PETITION TO RELOCATE REMAINS OF
RONALD L. SMITH and APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE ADMINISTRATOR AD LITEM**

I, Sandra Harris, sister of the deceased and the Petitioner, state that it is my desire for the remains of my brother, Ronald L. Smith be removed from the Hollywood Cemetery, located at 2012 Hernando Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38106 to Pleasant Rest Memorial Gardens, 6235 Raleigh Millington Road, Memphis, TN 38053.

I nominate W.C. Smith to serve as administrator ad litem for the sole purpose of the relocation of the remains of Ronald L. Smith.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on 1/3/2025



Sandra Harris
2583 Van Eaton Lane
Memphis, TN 38133

SERVED BY PRIVATE PROCESS

PROBATE COURT OF TENNESSEE
440 ADAMS AVENUE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103
FOR THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT MEMPHIS

SUMMONS IN CIVIL ACTION

IN THE MATTER OF: RONALD L. SMITH DECEASED

Docket No. PR031932

W.C. SMITH, PETITIONER

HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY COMPANY

VS

Plaintiff(s)

Defendant(s)

TO: (Name and Address of Defendant (One defendant per summons))

Method of Service:

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TN 37214

- ☐ Certified Mail Shelby
☐ County Sheriff Private
☐ Process Server
☒ Other

You are hereby summoned and required to defend a civil action by filing your answer with the Clerk of the Court and serving a copy of your answer to the Petitioner/Complaint on Theresa H Patterson Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 44 N. 2nd Street, Suite 604, Memphis, TN 38103 telephone 901-523-0177 within THIRTY (30) DAYS after this summons has been served upon you, not including the day of service. If you fail to do so, a judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

TESTED AND ISSUED

MAR 04 2025

By

EDDIE S. JONES, JR., Clerk

TO THE DEFENDANT(S):

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 919 of the Public Acts of 1980, you are hereby given the following notice: Tennessee law provides a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) personal property exemption from execution or seizure to satisfy a judgment. If a judgment should be entered against you in this action and you wish to claim property as exempt, you must file a written list, under oath, of the items you wish to claim as exempt with the Clerk of the Court. The list may be filed at any time and may be changed by you thereafter as necessary; however, unless it is filed before the judgment becomes final, it will not be effective as to any execution or garnishment issued prior to the filing of the list. Certain items are automatically exempt by law and do not need to be listed. These include items of necessary wearing apparel (clothing) for yourself and your family and trunks or other receptacles necessary to contain such apparel, family portraits, the family Bible and school books. Should any of these items be seized, you would have the right to recover them. If you do not understand your exemption right or how to exercise it, you may wish to seek the counsel of a lawyer.

RETURN OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE SERVED THE WITHIN SUMMONS:

By delivering on the _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____ M. a copy of the summons
and a copy of the Complaint to the following Defendant _____
at _____

Signature of person accepting service

By: _____
Sheriff or other authorized person to serve process

RETURN OF NON-SERVICE OF SUMMONS

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NOT SERVED THE WITHIN SUMMONS:

To the named Defendant _____
because _____ is (are) not to be found in this County after diligent search and inquiry for the following
reason(s): _____

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

By: _____
Sheriff or other authorized person to serve process