



Ray Anthony Smith, Jr.

January 19, 1979 - December 27, 2020

Ray Anthony Smith Jr. was born on January 19, 1979. As a young child Ray was quite, but took delight in spending time playing with his cousin's, playing baseball, being with his granny, and reading. Before graduating from Crowley elementary school, Ray shined in the Gifted and Talented Education Program known as G.A.T.E. From this point Ray began to excel even further in his academics as well as extra-curricular activities. Joining the marching band, student government, and Advanced Placement classes at Valley Oak Middle School Ray always made time to read. Known by his peers and teachers as an intellect, Ray was also social and referred to as, "a gentle giant."

While attending Golden West High School Ray joined various student body clubs such as the Black Student Union and Associate Student Body. During his senior year, Ray began applying at several universities within the UC system. After graduating from high school in 1997, Ray chose to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara. Throughout his time at UCSB he built an immense amount of lifelong friendships, traveled the country, attended concerts, art shows, eateries, and acquiring a zest for life. Ray also, joined several clubs such as Associate Students Program Board for Study Hall students, Campus Concert Coordinator, and worked as an RA during his time living in the dorms. In 2003, Ray graduated from UCSB obtaining his Bachelors of Science in Biology and Film Studies. After graduating, Ray continued to live in Santa Barbara where he continued to participate in several

campus activities as an employee of the university.

While hitting several bumps in the road Ray's determination to live and enjoy his life to the fullest outweighed the obstacles he faced. In 2012, Ray moved to the Bay area where he continued building life-long friendships, adding to his travel portfolio, and continued his love for art. While experiencing the highs and lows of life Ray lived as an eagle should by signifying inspiration, victory, longevity, and pride. His witty personality, profound intellect, and willingness to volunteer his time to others in the community drew people to him.

Ray joined the Lord on December 27, 2020 surrounded by family. Ray is survived by Ray Anthony Smith Sr. (father), Janelle Smith (mother), Ashley Alexander (sister), and Robert Alexander (brother in-law) and a host of other family and friends. A special thanks to Rae Taylor for unconditionally loving and supporting Ray.

You are now at peace and made whole. Soar amongst the eagles.

Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Ray Anthony Smith, Jr.*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 01, 2021 at 11:09 PM



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



January 27, 2021 at 01:16 AM