

**Black Mens Gathering
c/o Dr. William Roberts
1233 Central Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201**

April 10, 2006

To the family of Julius Smith

Our hearts join yours in mourning the passing of our brother Julius who was an active participant in the Black Mens Gathering for many years. His enthusiasm was always a prominent feature making him a vibrant, well-know and well-loved contributor to its development over the years. Some time ago he became determined to involve the male members of his family in the Gathering as well and was successful in attracting his two brothers and was immensely proud to share with them his experience.

So many times he honored his wife and children and spoke passionately about how much he loved them and was proud of their accomplishments. It was clear to everyone that his marriage made him a complete person and this served as an extraordinary inspiration to us all.

His voice could be heard most clearly in the midst of prayer. He loved to sing praises to the Almighty and was carried away when calling out the Name of Baha'u'llah seeking assistance for life's many challenges. In the past couple of years while battling his illness and when it was possible Julius was undeterred in his determination to be in the presence of the men of the Gathering. The mutual support seemed to reinforce his optimism and allowed him to openly share his deepest feelings in an atmosphere of unconditional support.

We love Julius and will miss his effervescent musings and his tender spirit.

We offer you the members of his family both immediate and extended our heartfelt condolences and the assurance of our prayers for the progress of his noble soul in the worlds beyond. Special prayers have been offered for you in the Baha'i House of Worship here in Wilmette.

With loving greetings to each one of you,

Dr. William Roberts
On behalf of the Bahá'í Black Mens Gathering