

A C E L E B R A T I O N O F L I F E



*Kevin*  
**CLAIBORNE KELLY**

Set Sail: May 2, 1963 | Voyage Complete: August 24, 2025

Thursday, September 11, 2025  
Viewing: 10am | Celebration of Life: 11am

From the Heart Church Ministries®  
5055 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746  
Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation

Congregational Hymn  
"God Will Take Care of You"

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament: Job 19:25-27  
New Testament: I Corinthians 15:50-58

Prayer of Comfort

Selection  
Pastor D. Michelle Perkins

Acknowledgements

Remarks  
Mr. James Price, Childhood Friend  
Reverend Tonya Y. Mitchell, Ministerial Colleague  
Mr. Charles A. Kelly, Brother  
Mrs. Kellysha Wongus, Daughter

Poem  
Mrs. Karen Kelly-McIntyre

Obituary  
Mrs. Karen Kelly-McIntyre

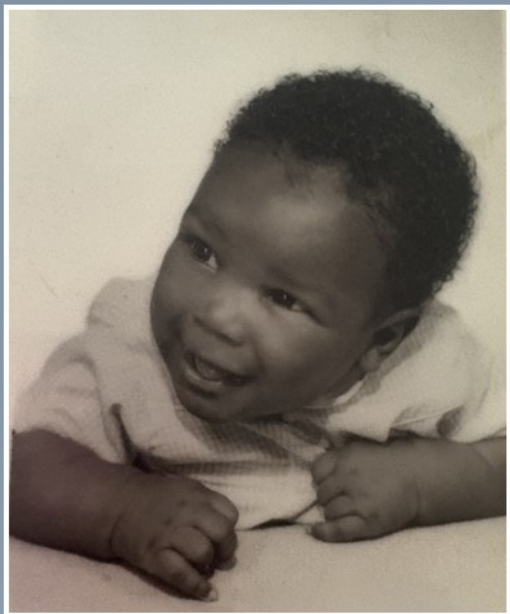
Song of Preparation  
Pastor D. Michelle Perkins

Message of Hope  
Minister Bonnie Rampersaud

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment  
Resurrection Cemetery  
8000 Woodyard Road  
Clinton, MD 20735



F O R E V E R I N O U R H E A R T S

# REMEMBERING KEVIN

Kevin Claiborne Kelly was born May 2, 1963, at the Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington, DC, the second child to the marital union of the late Charles Cornelius Kelly and the late Barbara Ann (Singleton) Kelly.

Kevin was loved for his infectious laugh and his charismatic, vibrant personality. He had a way of making friends wherever he went, and he could light up a room with his presence. Whether he was being recognized by someone or spotting a familiar face in the crowd, Kevin always made connections with ease. He had a gift for making everyone feel like they mattered.

Kevin was granted with a variety of nicknames, all capturing his dazzling personality: "Fat Snack," "El Greez," "Bodine," "KK," "Cheeseburger," "The Michelin Man," and "Pop-Pop" were among them.

Kevin attended both Catholic and public-school systems in Washington, DC eventually graduating from Eastern Senior High School in 1982. He was active in his father's boy scout troop #355 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church. Kevin liked to brag that he graduated from "The School of Hard Knocks" as he was a quick learner and sharp to the ways of the world.

Kevin held a paper route as a kid and in his teen years was a member of the SCAY youth employment program through Mt. Carmel Baptist Church as a utility assistant. He continued working steadily in a variety of career fields throughout his professional life. He was a true renaissance man, was often invited to work for companies and learned many skills hands on. Of his many roles, Kevin was a children's day care assistant, a coin laundry manager, a delivery truck and limo driver, and performed janitorial services during his lifetime. At the time of his passing, he was a proud member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 77, and had been employed as a heavy equipment operator for over 37 years.

Kevin was a great cook and could grill any meat to perfection. He learned to eat more healthily in his later years and encouraged others to do the same. He was often the designated photographer or videographer for family events. He enjoyed fishing and spent many relaxing hours on the water. Kevin was an avid music lover, with singer-songwriter Sade Adu (Sade) holding a special place in his heart. Her songs weren't just tunes to him-they were the soundtrack to his life. Kevin was always first to hit the dance floor, moving to the rhythm like no one was watching. His love for live music was unmatched, and he cherished every beat, every note, as if it spoke directly to his soul.

In 1989 Kevin entered the Save the Seed Ministry in Fort Washington, MD under the direction of Dr. Shine and Dee Dee Freeman (now Dee Dee Swindell) in the pursuit of sobriety. Kevin embraced the teachings of Christ and grew by leaps and bounds. During his tenure in the ministry, he was promoted to an in-house leadership position where he assisted the new male clients acclimating to the programs. He also led Bible studies. He was known as a man of great character and principle. His gifts led to additional promotion and training as a camera operator for the Save the Seed Television Ministry. Kevin's productions led him to travel around the country as a camera person, entrusted with filming such prestigious gospel artists and ministers as Bobby Jones, Juanita Bynum, Deitrick Haddon, Dr. I.V. Hilliard, Kenneth Copeland, Charles Stanley and many more.

His final assignment for Save the Seed was Director of Video Services. In his spare time, he took a ministerial role and aided in ushering many people from addiction and other life-destructive activities. Kevin served as a mentor, coach and friend to the participants and continued these pursuits long after the ministry was shuttered in 2016.

Kevin gained additional self-taught skills in audio visuals and television production, working with the Dream Network, a Christian broadcast television station. Kevin also planned events, booked performance artist and co-managed the My Brother's Place facility in Waldorf, MD. Kevin also operated the video recording of services for St. John AME in Hughesville, MD and was a member and served as the director of online/live stream services for Sword of the Spirit Ministries, Hyattsville, MD.

Kevin was preceded in death by his loving parents, his younger brother James Milton, and Rosa Smith-the devoted mother of his two children and his cherished lifelong friend.

He leaves to cherish his memory three children: daughter Kellysha and son-in-law Alston, son Charles Henry; brothers Curtis Sr. (Diane), Charles Andre (Ethel), and Raymond Sr. (Altres); sisters Karen (Llewellyn) and Isis; and the joys of his heart, his beloved grandchildren Emilia Rose, Kamdyn, and Ahmad. He is also survived by two former wives, Lenetta Pickett Kelly and Tarita Simpkins Kelly; as well as numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and three generations of cousins from both his maternal and paternal families, along with many friends, loved ones, and admirers.

Kevin will be laid to rest with his parents and younger brother James at Resurrection Cemetery.

## DEAR POP-POP

I'm going to miss you so much. I will always remember the fun times we had together. Like when we hung out at Dave and Buster's, and you ordered a Happy Meal just so I could have the toy. Or when you always gave me money to add to the top-secret safes you gave to me and Ahmad (Don't worry, I'm keeping the code to myself like we said).

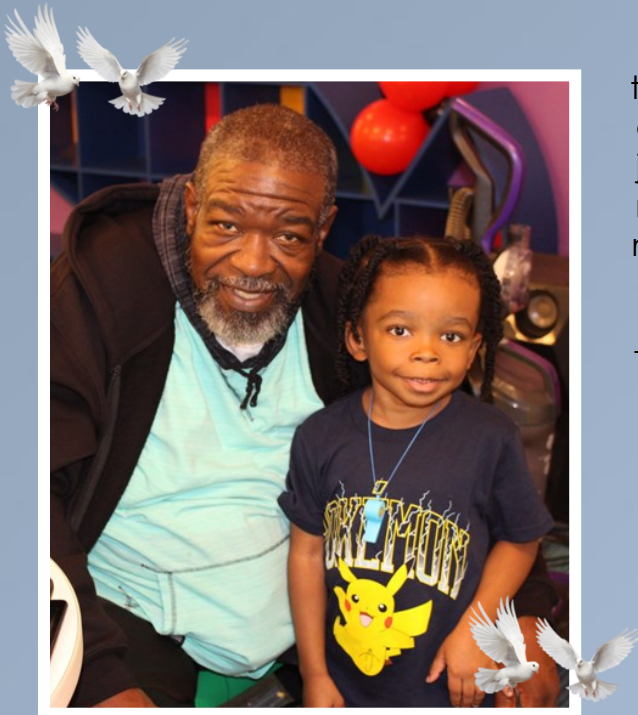
Thank you for always answering all my many questions and teaching me how to pray. I hope you're still listening to my Singing Monsters game that we put on your phone!

I'm trying to be a big boy, taking care of Mommy, being a good example for Ahmad, and listening to Daddy, just like you told me to.

I love you, Pop Pop. Bye bye.

Love,

Kamdyn (but you called me Lil Dude)





Daddy,  
 I've loved you from the very moment I took my first breath. I've heard you tell the story so many times—how I was born early and had to be placed in an incubator. You said you put your hand through the opening, and I immediately grasped your finger. From that moment, you've held my hand, and no matter what life threw my way, having you by my side always made it better.

Being your daughter has been the greatest privilege of my life. You were so much to so many people, but to me, you were simply Daddy. My Superman, my secret keeper, my giggle buddy, the one who wiped away my tears—but most of all, you were my best friend.

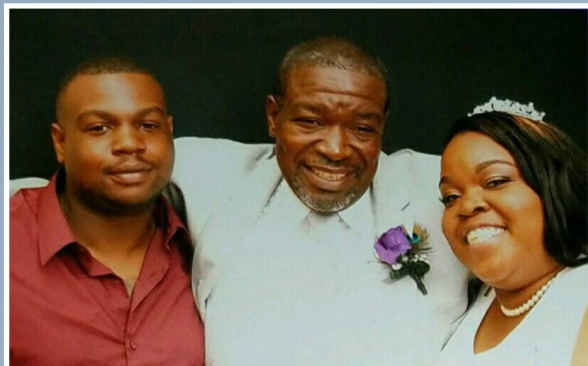
I'm forever grateful for the love you gave me and for always being there. You were my protector, saving me from the monsters under my bed. But now that you're gone, I'm left wondering who will save me from this monster called grief?

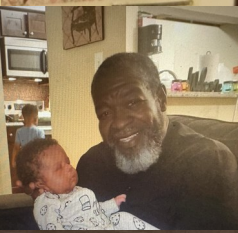
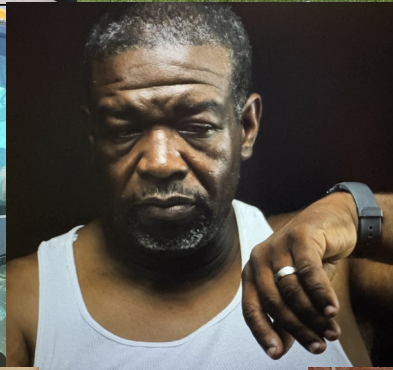
I'm going to miss you more than words can say. But I find comfort knowing how much you loved our Father God. It brings me peace to know that you are now part of His heavenly choir, and you'll always be my personal guardian angel. You never let a day go by without reminding me how proud you were of me, and how much you loved me. Those words will stay with me forever.

Please give Nana and Mommy a kiss for me. I know they were waiting with open arms to welcome you home. I'll be sure to take care of my family, just like you taught me, and put them—and God—above all else.

Until we meet again... like we always said, "From the Cradle to the Grave, baby!"

"Night night, Daddy. We'll talk soon."  
 -Your Wookus Tookus





# GONE FISHIN

by Delmar Pepper

I've finished life's chores assigned to me,  
So put me on a boat headed out to sea.  
Please send along my fishing pole  
For I've been invited to the fishin' hole.

Where every day is a day to fish,  
To fill your heart with every wish.  
Don't worry, or feel sad for me,  
I'm fishin' with the Master of the sea.

We will miss each other for awhile,  
But you will come and bring your smile.  
That won't be long you will see,  
Till we're together you and me.

To all of those that think of me,  
Be happy as I go out to sea.  
If others wonder why I'm missin'  
Just tell 'em I've gone fishin'



# BROTHER

It's been the hardest thing to lose you.  
You meant so much to me.  
But you are in my heart dear brother and that's  
where you'll always be.

I know that heaven called  
you but I wish you could have stayed.  
At least the memories I have of you,  
they will never fade.

I did not want to lose you but  
you did not go alone.  
Because a part of me went with  
you when heaven called you home.  
So just remember one thing, we are not apart.  
You're with me in my memories  
and in my broken heart.

Your Baby Sister, Lil Girl





## PALLBEARERS

Friends and Family



## FLOWER BEARERS

Friends and Family

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who reached out to us—whether through calls, prayers, messages, or acts of kindness—during this difficult time. Your support, compassion and love has been a source of comfort and strength as we grieve the loss of our dear Kevin. It means more to us than words can express. We know that Kevin is now in heaven, at peace and watching over us. If he could speak to us, we know he would encourage us to all live our lives in a way that honors the love and joy he shared, so that one day we can be reunited in glory. God bless you.

Kevin wouldn't want tears; he'd want a send-off full of smiles! Following the Interment, please join us as we cast one last line in Kevin's honor with a repast to celebrate his life, share memories, and raise a toast to the man we'll never forget.

## REPAST

The Venue at 112  
15920 Marlboro Pike Marlboro, MD 20770



### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Echelon Avant Garde Mortuary Professionals  
3451 14th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
(771) 208.3307

Programs By Twanitta (240) 606.6876