



James Kelley

April 27, 1933 - May 30, 2018

Obituary... His Story

In the beginning..."The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Psalm 37:23

James Thomas Kelley was born in Ionia, Lee County, South Carolina to his parents Lawrence and Leila

Dow Kelley. For many years, he worked as a farmer until the age of seventeen; and later worked at a furniture

store in Camden, S.C. In his early twenties, he moved to Folkston, Ga., and met his late wife,

Thelma Alice Belton Kelley. In 1961, he relocated to New Haven, Connecticut from Folkston, Ga., to explore

employment opportunities. He landed a job at Seamless Rubber Company. James achieved what he

came to do, and the next year in 1962, he moved his wife, Thelma, and nine children Joyce, Vivian,

James, Larry, Ronnie, Danny, Bobby, Clema, and Cynthia to Connecticut by railway and pursued a

life-long residency in New England. The youngest son, Earl was born in New Haven. When

Seamless Rubber Company closed, James started working for the Armstrong Company. Later, he was

employed by Yale-New Haven Hospital and retired from Yale-New Haven

Hospital after working there
for twenty-five years.

Church History...“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

Trustee James Kelley loved the Lord and loved his church family. In 1972, St. Mary's UFB Church was

founded under the pastoralship of Elder Martha Green. Trustee Kelley was so impressed by Pastor

M. Green's leadership, that he joined the church the following year. Trustee James Kelley was appointed

the first Treasurer of the Church, the Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday school and he sang in the

Male Chorus. He faithfully served in the role as Trustee until the Lord called him home to rest.

Family History...“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children...” Proverbs 13:22

By his seeds, Trustee James Thomas Kelley was affectionately known as “Deddy”. His wisdom and genuine concern for his family and church were exemplary. He spent a lot of time preparing delicious entrees and he was cooking until the time of his demise. James was a well-dressed man, and he knew cleanliness was next to Godliness. His favorite color was blue, and his favorite song was “God of a Second Chance”. He enjoyed gardening and watching sports; however, baseball was his favorite. He was a hard-working humble

servant of the Lord.

Trustee Kelley leaves to cherish his memory, seven children: Vivian (Adger Lee) Glover, Danny (Willa)

Kelley, Bobby Kelley, Earl (Jodi) Kelley, all of New Haven, CT., Cynthia (Louis)

Barnes of Baltimore, MD.,
Ronnie (Deborah) Kelley of West Haven, CT., and Larry (Pamela) Kelley of
Hamden, CT. Siblings: Geneva
Boykin of Atlanta, GA., Viola Sydoriak of New Haven, CT., William Kelley of
North Haven, CT., Almeta
Hudson of New Haven, CT., David (Carrie) Kelley of West Haven, CT., and
Mattie Kelley of Atlanta, GA.

Trustee Kelley is predeceased by his wife, Thelma Kelley, daughters, Joyce
Johnson and Clema Mae Kelley,
son: James (Buddy) Kelley, Parents: Lawrence and Leila Dow Kelley,
Brothers: Lawrence Kelley Jr. and Lester Kelley, Sisters: Sarah Lee, Alice
Sheppard, Mary Kelley, Martha Kelley, Annie Mae Smith, and Leila Kelley.
Grandchildren: Carita Jones, Francisco Jones, and Larry Kelley Jr. Great-
great granddaughter: Jada Bell.

James Kelley is survived by 27 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, 19
great-great grandchildren and a host of
nieces, nephews and friends.

Cemetery Details

Beaverdale Memorial Park

90 Pine Rock Avenue
New Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUN 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The New Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ
285 Dixwell Ave
New Haven, CT

Service

JUN 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

The New Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ
285 Dixwell Ave
New Haven, CT

Tribute Wall



“ *James Kelley*

October 09, 2023 at 06:14 AM



“ *Kim Chapman lit a candle in memory of James Kelley*



Kim Chapman - June 18, 2018 at 01:08 PM



“ *Evadale Daniels lit a candle in memory of James Kelley*



Evadale Daniels - June 10, 2018 at 02:43 AM



“ *Sharyn L. Grant lit a candle in memory of James Kelley*



Sharyn L. Grant - June 08, 2018 at 06:08 PM

DE

“ *Debbie lit a candle in memory of James Kelley*



Debbie - June 08, 2018 at 03:33 PM

TF

“ *The Family lit a candle in memory of James Kelley*



The Family - June 08, 2018 at 07:21 AM

TF

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kelly and family you have our deepest condolences, you are in our hearts and in our prayers...*

May you find comfort in knowing that there's no earthly sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

Prayerfully your

The Daniley Family

The Family - June 08, 2018 at 07:19 AM

DL

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kelly and family you have my deepest condolences, thinking of you constantly and praying for you fervently.*

I know our God will get you through this very difficult time as he always do, there is an expected end for he knows the plans that he had for you...

God bless you and heaven smile upon you is my pray

Sincerely and prayerfully yours

Diane Daniley Langford

Diane Danily Langford - June 08, 2018 at 06:47 AM



“ *R.i.P..Uncle James...*



Marvin Lee - June 07, 2018 at 06:21 PM



“ God Bless My Kelley Family At This Time.. Uncle James To Me Is A True Definition Of A Strong Loving Caring No non Sense Kinda Man But Also A Gental Giant Of A Man's Man...I Will Miss His Presents Physically But Spiritually And Mentally He Has Left A Legacy Of Great Sons Daughters A Host Of Nieces Nephews Siblings Of Brothers&Sisters Present And Deceased I Know One Sister My Mom R.I.P.Sarah Lee Has Welcomed Him Home To Join Her In Heaven With The Lord S.I.P...Uncle James Kelley God Bless My Kelley Family Strengthen Them Lord At This Time Sincerely Marvin Lee Sr And Family 🙏🙌

Marvin Lee - June 07, 2018 at 06:20 PM