

In Loving Memory of



Mack K. Key

Sunrise
March 14, 1950

Sunset
January 18, 2019

Service

Friday, January 25, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

Congregational Baptist Church

399 Bergen Street, Newark, New Jersey 07112

Reverend Eric Walker II, Officiating

Obituary

Mack Karl Key “Ricky” was born on March 14, 1950, in Newark, New Jersey, at Martland Medical Center (City Hospital) to the late Rosetta Lee (Thomas) Key and John Brady Key. He was one of eight boys and two girls. By the time he was born, his parents had a hard time coming up with a name so his doctor said name him after me. And they did – Mack Karl. However, his paternal grandmother, Liddy Bryant nicknamed him Ricky after one of the sons on her favorite television show *The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriett* (1950-1960s). The name Ricky stuck and ever since he was a baby everyone called him Ricky.

Ricky was born and raised in Newark’s Central Ward where he attended 18th Avenue Elementary School and West Kinney Jr. High before graduating from Central High School. It was at Central High School where Ricky joined the basketball team. He and his brother, the late Robert Lee Key played on the team and was infamously known as The Key Brothers. Ricky flourished in basketball and led the team to a state championship game against Orange High School and lost. The next day his picture was featured in the *Star-Ledger* going after the ball.

After graduating from Central High School, Ricky joined the military and spent a short time in the Marines. After his discharge, he enrolled at Rutgers College and played on the basketball team there.

After college, Ricky worked at Newark’s Post Office for two years before joining White Rose Supermarket/WakeFern Food Corporation (Owners of Shoprite) as a receiving clerk for more than 20 years. During this time, he married Emma Jean Holmes Key on her birthday on February 7, 2000, in Las Vegas. Ricky helped raise his stepdaughter Aronda (Ronnie) Holmes and Ronnie’s daughter, Tiane Robinson, and both now live in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The couple enjoyed many years of traveling together before Ricky became ill.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife, Emma Jean Holmes Key, stepdaughter, Aronda (Ronnie) Holmes, brother-in-law Brent J. Cooper, 3 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, his sister and brother-in-law Donna and James Samuels, three brothers William R. Key, Tyrone Key, and Randolph Michael Key, nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of loving friends. His beautiful smile will be forever remembered.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

1st Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 8

2nd Holy Gospel - John 14:1-7

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Reverend Eric Walker II

Recessional

INTERMENT

Evergreen Cemetery

Hillside, New Jersey

*Repast is provided by the Goodman's, Newsome's,
Samuels' and Key's families.*

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call*

I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way,

I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,

Then fill it up with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,

Oh, yes these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,

I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savored much.

Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,

Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,

God wanted me now, He set me free!

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

The family of **Mack K. Key** wishes to extend our sincere gratitude for all acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us at our time of bereavement. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concern.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
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