

Homegoing Service of Celebration

for

William Stephen Keller

BELOVED HUSBAND, FATHER, BROTHER, AND FRIEND



August 26, 1936 – April 4, 2019

Friday, April 12, 2019 – 11:00 AM

GREATER CENTENNIAL AME ZION CHURCH

312 South Eighth Avenue * Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue, Pastor

Obituary

William Stephen Keller of Waldwick, New Jersey was born on August 26, 1936 to the late William Stephen Keller, Sr. and Helen (Lakatos) Keller. William was the oldest of 5 children born of this union.

William, affectionately known as 'Bill' was educated in the New Jersey Public School System and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Kean University in Union, New Jersey. William was a Special Education Teacher with the Paterson School District from which he retired in 2001.

William (Bill) will always be loved and remembered as a brother of the highest honor and faithfulness to his mother Helen Keller and his four siblings: Barbara, John, Caroline, and Michael.

Bill had quite a few loves in his life...family, church, the outdoors (hunting and fishing) and woodworking. All these "loves" kept Bill quite busy. However, with all these 'loves,' Bill continued to be a good husband and provider. At an early age, he devoted his early years to helping his mother provide for the family due to the death of his father when Bill (the oldest of 5 children) was only 12 years of age. With God's help and Bill's creativity, the family was able to stay together. That care, nurturing, and creativity continued throughout his life. Bill was an excellent cook, and he loved to bake. He taught his wife Marie (his wife of 25 years) how to make the best cheesecake ever!!! Bill welcomed any opportunity to spend time with his family (often fishing with his brother Michael and nephew Seth). Much of his time was spent using his God-given gift of wood-carving/carpentry to his church, Greater Centennial AME Zion Church, Mt. Vernon, NY where Bill was a committed tither, he never hesitated to offer to use his gift to help glorify God. To his church, he devoted his gift of carpentry and woodcarving. If we were to look around the church today, we will see Bill Keller...look at the Guest Podium & the Baptismal Font...Bill refurbished them both; look at the Sound Board Case, he built it from scratch; look in the fellowship hall, he built that podium...look in the finance room, he built the counting tables around the room; look at the portable table for offerings, he built that as well. He also built the first communion removable communion rack. Bill loved his God and he loved his church!

As time went on, Bill was unable to do these things as much as he would have liked. This was often frustrating to Bill. He showed how "creative" he really was when his car key was taken from him so he wouldn't be tempted to drive. That didn't stop Bill, he actually called Enterprise Car Rental and had them pick him up from the house so he could rent a car. Bill used the rental car to drive to the woods to feed apple to the deer (I know Bill was thinking...you all can't stop me!). When Bill was finished, he returned the car to the rental agency and called his step-daughter...to her shock and surprise and asked her to pick him up! Bill's mind was clearly still working quite well. Bill, you will be missed.

William made his earthly transition on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Bill leaves to cherish precious and wonderful memories: his wife Marie Keller (Amangoua); four sons, William Stephen Keller, III, Henry Keller, Shawn Keller, Christopher Keller; one Step-daughter, Ana Corrinne Nebout; 2 brothers: John Keller (Janet), Michael Keller (Ruth); 2 sisters, Caroline Keller, Barbara Schnuck; Step-grandson, Seway (Willie). He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and his beloved church family.

"I have fought the good fight; I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous, Shall give me at that day; and not to me only, But unto all them that love His appearing..." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Order Service

The Processional.....Family & Clergy
Call to Worship.....Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue
Prayer of Invocation.....Rev. Annie Kersey
Opening Hymn.....“Blessed Assurance”
The Scriptures
• Old Testament - Psalm 23.....Brother Augustine Boateng
• New Testament - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.....Rev. Champ Roberts
Musical Selection.....“Great is Thy Faithfulness”
Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Harvey Salmond
Reflections/Tributes.....Michael Keller, Brother
Seth Keller, Nephew
John Keller, Brother
Stephen Dia, Nephew
Reading of Obituary.....Read Silently
Solo“I Won’t Complain” - Sis. Nicole M. Phifer
Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue
Musical Selection.....“How Great Thou Art”
The Benediction.....Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue
The Committal.....Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue
The Recessional.....“When We All Get to Heaven”

The Repast will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Service today!

Pallbearers

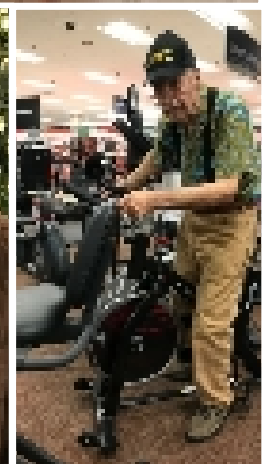
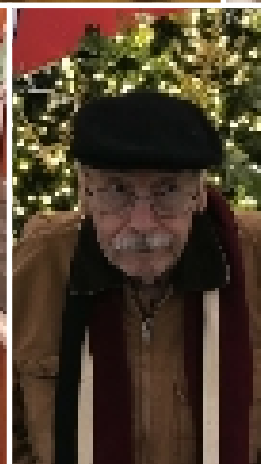
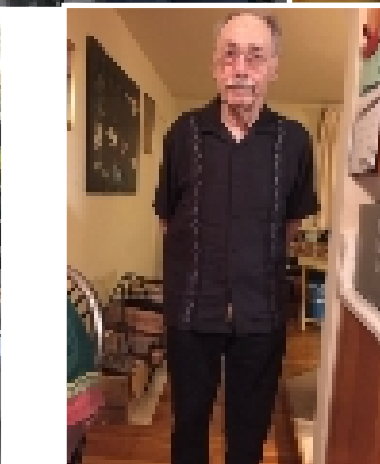
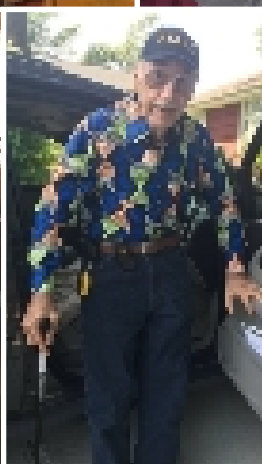
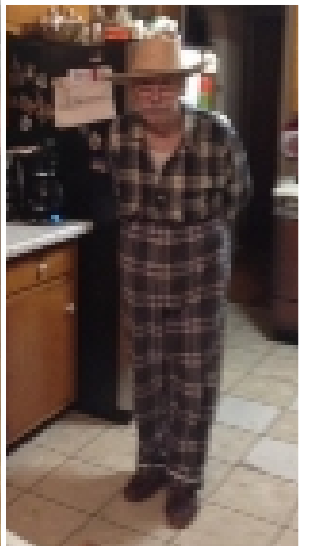
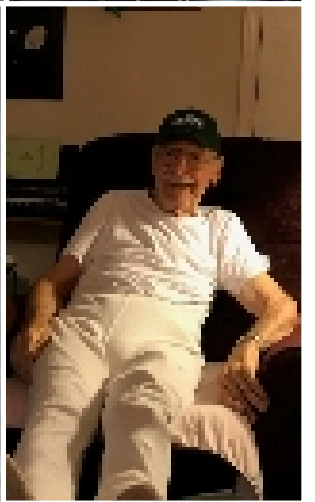
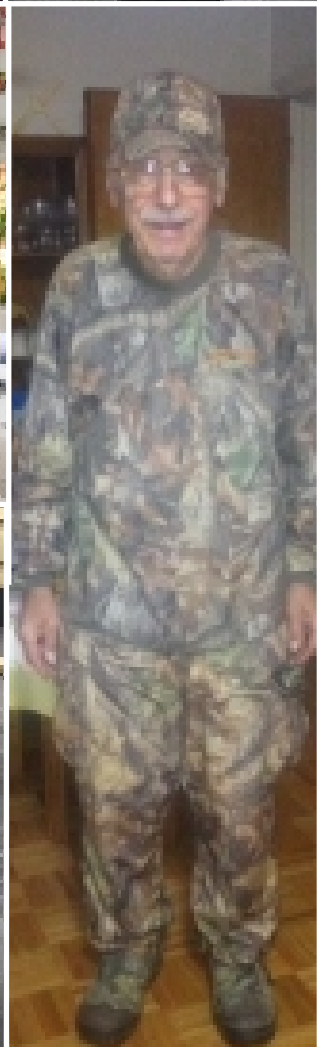
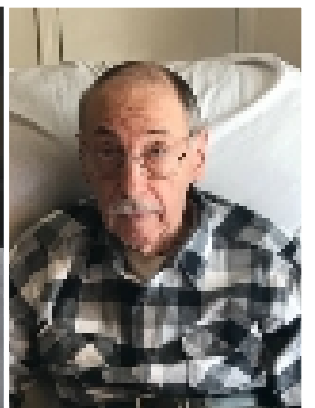
Michael Keller Seth Keller
William Keller, III Stephen Dia
Michael Russo

Honorary Pallbearers

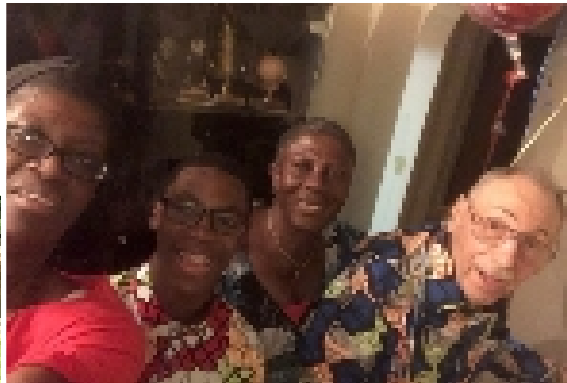
Henry Keller Shawn Keller
Christopher Keller

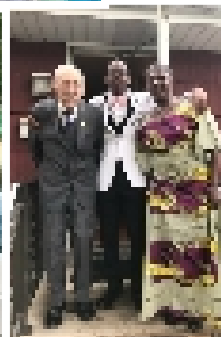
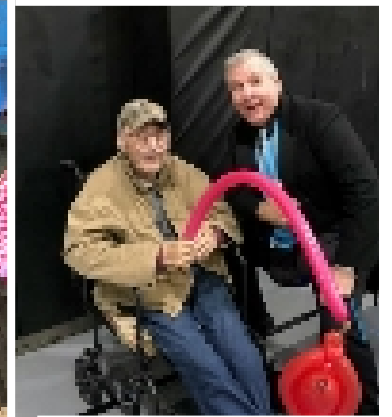
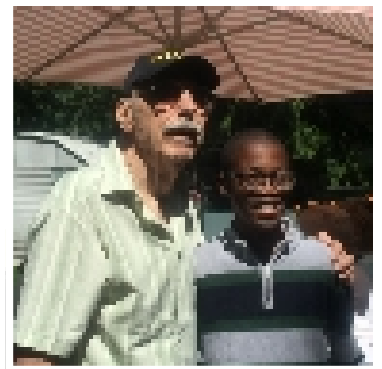
Entombment

Monday, April 15, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.
Laurel Grove Mausoleum Cemetery
295 Totowa Rd., Totowa, New Jersey









Release Me

Release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
be happy that we had so many years.

I gave you my love and you can only guess,
how much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
but now it's time I traveled alone.

So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must
then let your grief be comforted by trust.
it's only for a while that we must part
so bless the memories with your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on,
so if you need me, call and I will come.
though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
and if you listen with your heart,
you'll hear all my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say,
"Welcome home."

Acknowledgement

The family of **William Stephen Keller** gratefully acknowledges your supportive presence, shared memories and laughter, calls and concerns, and, most appreciatively, your prayers for us as we strive to sing praises to the Lord in this most difficult season. May the Lord bless and keep each of you; spirit, soul, and body.

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