



## Miss Me But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.  
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little but not too long  
And not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared,  
Miss me but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take  
And each must go alone.  
It's all a part of the Master's plan,  
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.  
Miss me but let me Go!

~Christina Georgina Rossetti

### With Thanks and Appreciation

The Kelley family would like to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the many acts of love, concern and kindness shown to us during this difficult time. We pray for you and your families and wish you well.

#### Pallbearers

#### Family & Friends

#### Professional Services Provided By CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME

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## Celebrating the Life of



## Mr. Johnnie Edward Kelley

Sunrise:  
September 24, 1941

Sunset:  
November 10, 2020

Saturday, November 14, 2020  
10:30 a.m. Visitation / 11:30 a.m. Service

#### CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME

256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Randall Lassiter, Officiating  
The Historic Calvary Baptist Church



# Obituary

Mr. Johnnie Edward Kelley  
He Lived, He Laughed, He Loved  
9/24/41 - 11/10/20

Nothing expresses love more than the birth of a child. Love was manifested through Eva (Ellerbe) Kelley and Johnnie Kelley on September 24, 1941 in Bethune, SC with the birth of their first son Johnnie Edward Kelley. After a fulfilled life, he slept away peacefully on Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 in Lawrenceville, GA.

The family relocated to Paterson, NJ when Johnnie was three months old, and his journey began. During his time here on earth, Johnnie aka Kelley, lived a life that was full of love and happiness. Even if there were tough times, he always showed his best. He received his early education in the Paterson Pubic Schools. At the age of 19, he met the “new” girl in town, Jessie Grant. They became one on July 29, 1962 and shared a lifetime of love for 55 years. They were the talk of the town following their double wedding ceremony with lifelong friends Pete & Emma. It was the largest the town had seen, in fact many still share fond memories of that joyful day.

He was best known around town as the barber from “Mop City Barbershop”. He was a master stylist and kept both his male and female clients looking sharp. They were proud to have the “Kelley” touch and the BEST process in town! He was a successful business man and an entrepreneur at heart. Of his many ventures he was most proud of being the proprietor of the West Broadway Pool & Game Room. He took pride in seeing people at the height of their joyful moments in life. Always innovative, he may have been ahead of his time with one of the first food trucks of his era. The millennials have nothing on Kelley, he could say, been there, done that! Most of all, Kelley, loved life and all that it had to offer, and he embraced it every day and in every situation.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, his loving wife Jesse Grant Kelley, his son and daughter Craig Cook and Amanda Earl, granddaughter Kwashonda Reed, sister Ella Mae Coleman and his baby brother Muhammad-Sharrieff Abdullah.

Remembering him forever and a day are, his loving children, Wayne Guthrie (Rolanda) and Eric Ward (Kim) of Maryland, Kim Kelley-Thaxton (Mark) and Garnetta Kelley-Nelson (Tony) of Georgia; 22 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; siblings Catherine Powell and Freddie Saboor Kelley (Pat); aunt Almeta Brown; sister-in-law, Malika Abdullah; special cousin/friend Kenny Reams; lifelong friend Gordon Alexander; many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors of the Riverview Towers.

When life comes to its end, many will say, “should have, would have, could have...” but Johnnie Kelley lived life to its fullest, he embraced every opportunity to see the good in people and he bowed out gracefully. He will forever be remembered for his cool swag, his loving heart and his kind spirit. Loved by many, missed by all...

# Order of Service

Call to Order .....Rev. Randall Lassiter

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 46:1-7

New Testament - I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Hymn of Comfort

Remarks

Family Tribute(s)

Acknowledgements and Reflections of Life

Sermonic Selection

Eulogy ..... Rev. Randall Lassiter  
Pastor, The Historic Calvary Baptist Church

Final Viewing

Recessional

Interment  
George Washington Memorial Park  
Paramus, New Jersey



## Goodbye Dad

It's never the right time  
To say goodbye.  
I will miss you, Dad,  
And here is why.  
You taught me so much:  
To show no fear,  
To always have fun,  
And face the day with cheer.

You never looked for praises,  
And you were never one to boast.  
You were always there  
For those you loved the most.

I hope you can hear me  
So I can let you know  
That you were and will forever  
Be my superhero.  
So yes, today  
I am full of sorrow,  
But I will smile a little more  
With each tomorrow.

So please, Dad, go  
Be at rest  
And know to me  
You were always the best.  
~Leanne Brady

## Remembering Grandpa

It has been said that the best dads get promoted to grandpas. Grandfathers are good listeners, good storytellers, and most importantly, good friends. They are always there to laugh and play with their grandkids and even console them when necessary. Grandfathers are also often the source of sage advice, a benefit of their many years of experience. One thing is for sure, the love of a grandfather is a unique treasure that is never forgotten. The times spent with you have now turned into precious memories that are conserved in the heart, even long after you have left our presence.

With love and admiration,  
Grands and Great-grands