



Michael D. Kelley

MAR 18, 1964 - JUN 9, 2024



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*Taylor Funeral Home
of Chattanooga, Inc.*

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Michael D. Kelley

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Michael D. Kelley, 60, of Chattanooga, passed away Sunday, June 9, 2024, in a local hospital. He was born March 18, 1964, in Chattanooga, Tennessee to the proud parents Leo Freeman, Jr. and Mary Diane Kelley-Freeman, both of Chattanooga. He was a beloved resident of Chattanooga. After residing in Atlanta, Georgia for 17 years, he returned home to establish a business, M & T's Soul Food Express, where he was a hard-working laborer working two jobs to make that dream come true. He received his education through Hamilton County Schools at Howard High School and later obtained his GED completing his former educational task, job well done. Michael had a strong belief in God and shared his beliefs with all that encountered him. He was a very humorous yet serious-minded person. He loved jokes, and his favorite line to his family was, "What's going on?" He had a special and deep love for his uncle, Arthur "Bud Lee" Kelley, and aunts Lenora Hall and Lucy Carrie Lightfoot, who were seen as second mothers to them all. His sisters, Samantha and Tracy, along with his uncle "Bud Lee," were instrumental in opening and running his restaurant, M & T's Soul Food Express Restaurant, which he named after he and his son Terence. Michael and his sister, Barbara, had a very strong bond and communicated on all aspects of life and family. His brothers and he enjoyed a great childhood and teenage life together with many memories to forever cherish. Michael was truly loved by his family, coworkers, and friends, and will be dearly missed. He was preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Mariah Thomas; grandfather, Wiley Lewis Kelley; grandmother, Mary Jewel Kelley, who raised him while playing an instrumental role in his life; his mother, Mary Diane Kelley; uncle, Willie James Kelley; aunts, Alice Faye Atkins and Patricia Kelley-Cunningham. He leaves to cherish his fond memories his son, Terence D. Kelley, of Chattanooga; his daughter, Kourtney Baldwin, of Jacksonville, FL; father, Leo Freeman, Jr., of Chattanooga; devoted sisters, Barbara Evans-Gray, of Ringgold, GA, Samantha Noble, and Tracy



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Freeman, both of Chattanooga; brothers, Nathaniel Freeman and Brillard Kelley, both of Chattanooga, and Timothy Ashley, of Nashville, TN; three other sisters, Lisa and Tracy Freeman and LeShonda (Chad) Jothem, all of Minneapolis, MD; uncle, Arthur “Bud Lee” Lewis Kelley of Chattanooga; loving and devoted aunts, Lenora Kelley-Hall and Lucy Carrie Kelley-Lightfoot, both of Chattanooga. Cherishing his memory along with other family members are loving and devoted nieces, Sardae (Euinnus) Fletcher and Tiffany Gray; cousins, Demarcus “Big Man” Akins and Kenneth “Kay-Kay” Kelley; nephew, Brian Anderson; a host of other cousins and friends. Michael will lie-in-state on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will follow at 12:00 noon in the chapel with Minister Stephen Gilcrest as eulogist. Burial in Forest Hills Cemetery.

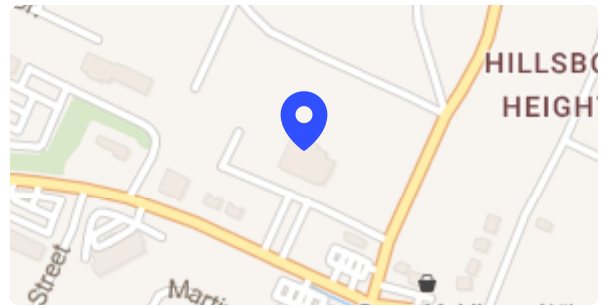


Events

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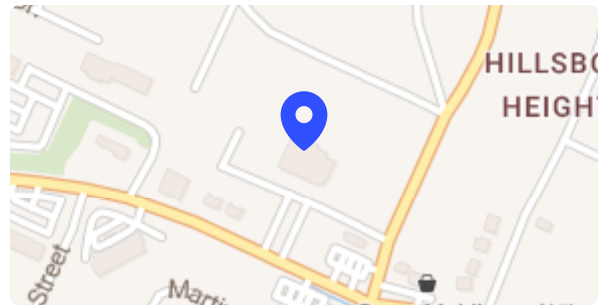
Lie-In-State

- Wednesday**, June 26, 2024
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
- Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc**
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411



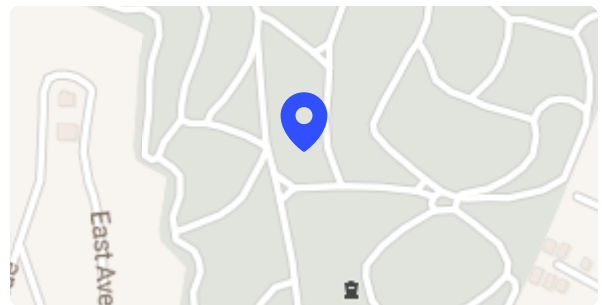
Service

- Wednesday**, June 26, 2024
- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET
- Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc**
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411



Cemetery Details

- Forest Hills Cemetery**
4016 Tennessee Avenue , Chattanooga TN 37409





Tribute Wall

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Katrina Gordon lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 27 at 3:56 AM



Cynthia Thomas posted:

Michael you will be missed. Always a kind wise soul. Sincere condolences to your entire family. Rest easy ❤️🙏❤️

June 26 at 10:29 AM



Sivels Family lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 26 at 10:27 AM



Bonita Springs sent a virtual gift in honor of Michael.

June 26 at 10:25 AM



Vickie Fielder lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 26 at 9:25 AM



Kimberly Mincey lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 25 at 4:27 PM





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CP

Cora L Parks posted:

My condolences to the family

June 24 at 5:28 PM

JG

Jenny G posted:

Michael and I go way back. He was always kind. RIP, for now, my friend. You will be missed—prayers for the family.

June 24 at 3:33 PM

AY

Anon Ymous posted:

The Mike Kelley I knew was a terrific "in house counsel". Never lost site of what had to be done for those he served and for himself. Glad I had the chance to serve as co-counsel (my role minor), and editor / typist. We had some Hustle.

June 22 at 5:02 PM

DD

Denise Drake lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 20 at 4:09 PM



VM

Vanessa J Madison lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 20 at 2:30 PM





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EF

Everneza Ford lit a candle in honor of Michael.



June 20 at 10:04 AM

EF **Everneza Ford** June 20 at 10:05 AM
My condolences to the family

RT

Randy E Toney lit a candle in honor of Michael.



Sending prayers 🙏 and condolences to the Kelly family 🙏

June 18 at 4:00 PM

SD **San Drake** June 19 at 9:22 AM
I am so sad to hear of Michael's passing. Michael was a good and kind friend who I will miss. May God comfort and keep each of you. My prayers are with you Kelley family. Michael' son, Barbara Ann, Samantha, Lucy and Arthur to name a few. Love San Drake Brown.

JW **Jackie Jones Wood** June 19 at 7:48 AM
Sending prayers to the family for Jesus to comfort all.

DP

Darlene Jackson Petite lit a candle in honor of Michael.



Sending our condolences and prayers to the Kelly Family at this time of loss. The Jackson & Richardson family

June 17 at 3:46 PM

SS

Stephanie Smith lit a candle in honor of Michael.



June 17 at 3:43 AM



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AO

Acquanella Ogbemudia lit a candle in honor of Michael.
Heartfelt condolences to the Family of Michael Kelly may he RIP

June 13 at 7:55 PM



DW

Darlene Sewell-Ware lit a candle in honor of Michael.
Sending Our Deepest Condolences to the Families 🙏🙏🙏 Darlene Sewell-Ware and Sylvester Ware Jr

June 13 at 11:41 AM



JS

Jean Savage lit a candle in honor of Michael.
My Condolences from the Eberhardt to the Kelley family ,May God give u Stenght

June 13 at 6:53 AM



DW

Darlene Sewell-Ware lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 13 at 6:50 AM



AH

Audrey Gail High lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 13 at 6:28 AM



VR

Vincent Robinson lit a candle in honor of Michael.

June 12 at 6:41 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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