



Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr.

December 21, 1934 - July 29, 2024

DR. RUSSELL V. KELLEY was a native of Norfolk Virginia, the son of the late Russell Kelley Senior and Fannie Armfield Kelley. He was born on December 21, 1934 and lived a rich and rewarding life touching and enriching so many lives along the way. He was reared in a loving, Christian home and accepted the Lord at an early age while attending the Shiloh Baptist Church of Norfolk. Russell peacefully returned to our Heavenly Father on Monday, July 29, 2024.

Russell was educated in the Norfolk Public Schools System. After graduation from Booker T. Washington High School, he enrolled in Virginia State College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. His graduate study included a Master of Science degree in Science Education from New York University, a General Electric Fellowship at Union College, Schenectady, New York, National Science Foundation Summer Fellowships at Pace College, New York City, and Stanford, University Marine Biology Station in Pacific Grove, California. In 1972 Dr. Kelley earned a PHD. degree in Biology from Purdue University where he was a Ford Foundation Fellow.

Always a mentor and teacher, Dr. Kelley taught in Downing town, Pennsylvania and Plainview, Long Island, New York before joining the Science Education faculty at Morgan State University in 1966.

He served Morgan in numerous capacities, including as Chair of the

Department of Science Education, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chair of the Department of Biology. He was one of the founders of the annual Morgan State University Science Fair, which he chaired for 20 years. He was also the Maryland Chair of the Mathematics, Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) National Program. Russell was also a member of the Black and Jewish Forum of Baltimore (Baltimore BLEWS).

Russell was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for 69 years including three years as President of the Delta Lambda Chapter. He served on the Chapter's Foundation Board and was Chair of the Political Action Committee. He was also the founder of the Chapter's annual tennis tournament.

Over the years, Russell and Delores have been members of several Christian denominations, including the Lutheran Church, Disciples of Christ, and Union Baptist Church. For over 35 years he was a faithful member of Union. He served on the Trustee Board, the Church Property Committee, the Stewardship and Legacy Ministry and the Cyber Center Mentoring Ministry.

He also served as a member of the College Savings Plan of Maryland and on the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Russell had a loving family life, married for over 66 years to Dr. Delores G. Kelley, retired professor, and State Senator. He and Delores enjoyed following the careers and civic endeavors of their children, Norma, Russell, and Brian.

Throughout his career, Russell was a beacon of light and hope to hundreds of students across the country, helping them to succeed in an array of professional careers. He is fondly remembered by generations of students.

Russell leaves to cherish his wonderful memory: his loving and devoted wife,

Delores; his sons, Russell V. Kelley,III (Kristina) and Dr. Brian T. Kelley (Violette); three granddaughters, Anastasia, Christina and Beatrice; son-in love,Dr. Aaron Johnson; sisters, Lorraine Bullock (Lionel), Lillian K. Pierce, Denise Vice (Nathan); one brother,Darryl Kelley, Esq.(Evelyn); and a host of family and friends.

Russell was preceded in death by his loving daughter Norma Kelley Johnson, sister Glondese Kelley Howard, and brothers Eugene Kelley and Rev. William Kelley

Previous Events

Wake

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Morgan State University (Murphy Fine Arts Center)
2201 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218

Memorial Service

AUG **16**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Morgan State University (Murphy Fine Arts Center)
2201 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I remember meeting Dr. Russell V. Kelley as I was leaving the barbershop one Saturday morning on Liberty Road. Dr. Kelley was outside the shop getting people registered to vote. We had a brief conversation and I became a registered voter. This introduction created a momentum of positive interaction with a generous man for over 20 plus years. Even though I was a Morgan State student at the time, I never had him for Biology, but I called him my professor. We've had many conversations in his office, at one of our favorite spots, and over the phone. He always wanted a good cup of coffee. He always showed interest in my pursuits and his wisdom has been timeless. He always showed up and included us. He knew how to bring people together. He was proud of his wife, children, students, and his church family. I will never forget his investments in my life, the people he introduced me to, the stories he shared and his ability to call us up higher. Three phrases that are gold to me, "Academic Animal", "One thing I count is production", "It doesn't matter how long it takes, what matters is that you cross the finish line". Thank you Dr. Kelley for being a light and sharing your life. May God bring comfort to Dr. Kelley's family, friends, students, and fraternity brotherhood. -Jarrod C Porter

Jarrod C Porter - August 16, 2024 at 09:35 AM

CN

“ At Morgan State University, I fell in love with Biology in Dr. Kelley’s class. He pushed me to study hard and raise my standards when it came to academics. He “only counted production,” a phrase I have shared with my students when pushing them to academic success. Dr. Kelley was certainly a Morgan treasure.

*Rev. Dr. Crystal Newby-Reynolds
MSU class of 1992*



Crystal Newby - August 16, 2024 at 08:16 AM

TB

“ Teresa Swain Bowman lit a candle in memory of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr.



Teresa Swain Bowman - August 16, 2024 at 01:18 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr..



August 13, 2024 at 12:55 PM

HE

“ HBM Board of Directors & Employees planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr..

HBM Board of Directors & Employees - August 13, 2024 at 12:55 PM

MG

“ what I remember about Dr. Kelley is seeing Russ before his 8 o'clock class after driving from Annapolis on the morning of his 8 o'clock class, and trying to grab some breakfast before he met his students. I also remember arriving at departmental faculty meetings with a extra large cup of coffee, and a stack of papers to grade. Finally, I remember the the time that I spent with Russ before he passed away, and the story of Delores's father leaving him up on the roof of a house that he was working on.

Russ I will miss you, and realize that I had the privilege to know him.

Sincerely,

Mitch Graham

mitch graham - August 13, 2024 at 11:04 AM

MH

“ Dr. Kelly, really miss the fun we had at our tennis sessions with Derrick. Can see you with your coffee cup smiling. RIP Marion

Marion Louise Harris - August 12, 2024 at 10:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr..



August 12, 2024 at 08:51 PM

FS

“ *Ferrier Stillman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr..*

Ferrier Stillman - August 12, 2024 at 08:51 PM

DA

“ *Defense Threat Reduction Agency-AL ACB purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr..*



Defense Threat Reduction Agency-AL ACB - August 12, 2024 at 07:58 AM

DA

“ *Defense Threat Reduction Agency-AL ACB planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr..*

Defense Threat Reduction Agency-AL ACB - August 12, 2024 at 07:58 AM

NJ

“ *Sending condolences from The Johnson family. Praying for God's peace and strength during this time.*

Nicole J. - August 09, 2024 at 07:04 AM

DD

“ Dan and Fran Doherty purchased the Fairest of A
ll for the family of Dr. Russell V. Kelley Jr..



Dan and Fran Doherty - August 06, 2024 at 10:57 PM

DD

“ Dan and Fran Doherty planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Russell V.
Kelley Jr..

Dan and Fran Doherty - August 06, 2024 at 10:57 PM

HP

“ THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING ME TO
CONTINUE IN HIGHER EDUCATION



HILDA tRUESDEL- PHILLIPS - August 06, 2024 at 02:13 PM

KS

“ Doc rest in peace. You and I shared many conversations and we
both realize that we share more world and culture than many
wouldn't instant. You are a stand up guy and will be truly missed
brother. □



kevin simmons - August 06, 2024 at 12:42 PM

PL

“ To the Kelley family: I am sorry to read about your loss. May God’s words in the Bible at Ps 34:18 provide you comfort. The scriptures tells us “HE” is near to those broken at heart, and those crushed in spirit HE saves.

P Land - August 06, 2024 at 06:00 AM

RB

“ My condolences to the entire family on your loss which is also felt by all that Dr. Kelley has touched, inspired, mentored, and counseled. He was among my earliest mentors in higher education who believed in and actively worked to support our collective work. You are already missed my friend.

Ricardo Brown - August 02, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - July 31, 2024 at 02:55 PM



Dr. Kelly, was truly an influence on my life. I worked for him during my years at Morgan under the Work Study program. He taught me so much about life, the future, and how to not quit. He sincerely care about me and my well being. As an adult, I wish I had spent more time with him. He was truly an Angel. I thank God we crossed paths. My sincere thoughts to his Family and all the people he helped along the way. Ryan Mitchell (MSU - Class of 1979)

Ryan Mitchell - August 15, 2024 at 09:04 PM