



Kelvin James O'Neal

January 29, 1956 - December 18, 2010

Dr. Kelvin James O'Neal, son of the late Rev. James and Leola O'Neal, was born January 29, 1956, in Baltimore, Maryland. After receiving a call from God saying that he needed another trumpeter for the Heavenly Orchestra, Kelvin suddenly departed his earthly life on Saturday December 18, 2010 to accept God's call.

Kelvin received his formal education in the Baltimore City Public School System, where he graduated from Frederick Douglass Senior High School. He continued his education at St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina and pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Kelvin later transferred to and graduated from Morgan State College, with a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Music Education. Kelvin received an Honorary Doctorate in Sacred Music from Eastern Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, VA.

Kelvin accepted Christ at an early age at Southern Baptist Church, under the Pastorate of the late Rev. James R. Grant. He was an active member of the Southern Baptist Church Make Chorus and music ministries Under the leadership of the late Rev. Nathaniel Higgs, Kelvin could be seen and heard playing his trumpet, during the early morning service at Southern Baptist Church. While Kelvin's church membership remained at Southern Baptist Church, his love for God and the music ministry allowed him to be a faithful son of Southern Baptist Church, his love for God and the music ministry

allowed him to be a faithful son of Southern Baptist Church and Sharon Baptist Church. Kelvin was invited to perform for Rev. Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn's Installation as Pastor, and he remained a vibrant leader of the Wind Ensemble for 24 years.

At an early age, Kelvin began taking private trumpet lessons from the late great James Holliman. Mr. Holliman was more than a teacher to Kelvin, he was a mentor and like a “second father” to him. Whenever M. Holliman called, (usually around 5:00am), Kelvin was quick to answer. Kelvin followed in his mentor's footsteps by becoming the Director of The Three Clef's Orchestra and playing for the annual Blue Ribbon Tea. Mr. Holliman also told Kelvin to strive to be the best musician he could be, while always remaining a consummate professional.

In 1986, Kelvin was united in holy matrimony to his childhood sweetheart, the form Pamela Arlease Moore-Smith. From this union, they were blessed with four daughters; Lisa Kristan, Jillan, Marissa, and one son; Kelvin, Jr.

Kelvin was a life-long educator. His profession was being a teacher, but he was much more to his students. Kelvin was a mentor, surrogate father, friends, counselor and disciplinarian to his students. He began his teaching career as a student teacher in the Baltimore County Public School System. Kelvin later joined the Baltimore City Public School System, where he was a music educator for nearly 30 years. Within that time, he taught at Alexander Hamilton Elementary School, Edgewood Elementary School, Robert W. Coleman Elementary School, Frederick Douglass Senior High School, Lake Clifton/Easter High School. Using the talents God gave him, Kelvin began teaching instrumental music at the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Institute of Music, Southern Baptist Church Vacation Bible School, and for more than twenty years, he served as an instructor in the Academic Division of the James Cleveland Gospel Music Workshop of America.

Kelvin shared his time and talents with many churches and organizations across the country. His life accomplishments are too numerous to be fully conveyed, within the limits of this obituary. Some highlights include; serving as Chairman of the PI Omega Talent Hunt Committee for fifteen years and in 2008 being named Man of the Year from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He founded and directed O'Neal & Company and the Lake Clifton Eastern High School Jazz Combo. He also directed the Eubie Blake Jazz Band, the National Baptist Pre-convention Musical Orchestra, and the Sharon Baptist Church Wind ensemble. He was also a member of the Big Daddy Stallins Blues Band.

Kelvin leaves to cherish his legacy, his wife of twenty-four years, Pamela O'Neal, four daughters; Lisa Smith-Dennis (Kevin Dennis), Kristan O'Neal, Jillan O'Neal, and Marissa O'Neal; one son; Kelvin O'Neal, Jr., who preceded him in death; four grandchildren; Korie, Kristopher, Josslyn, and Brooklyn; four god-children; Dameion Woodard, Kendra Allen, Wayne Gilmore, and Mykal Gilmore, who preceded him in death, three brothers; Kenneth Greene, Larry McCoy, and Anthony Murphy; two sisters; Delphine Lewis and Tawanda Jones; a mother-in-law; Vivian Smith; two sister-in-law; Renee Smith and Phyllis Smith; long time friends; Rev. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, Scott Washington, Wayne Gilmore, Warren Hood II, Donald Milburn, Leonard Foust, Joe Thomas, Joyce Woodard, James Dow, Elizabeth Butler, the Southern Baptist and Sharon Baptist Church families, The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephew, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Arbutus

1101 Sulphur Spring Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21227

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Service

DEC 28. 7:00 PM (ET)

Sharon Baptist Church
1373 N. Stricker Street
Baltimore, MD

Wake

DEC 28. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sharon Baptist Church
1373 N. Stricker Street
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Kelvin James O'Neal*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *OMG, I'm still in disbelief Mr. O'Neal. My favorite music teacher I loved soooooo much. Taught me so much up Lake. I still can't believe it; rest easy Mr O'Neal. My heart and prayers goes out to the family, Jill and everyone else.. wow*

Donte Alston - December 05, 2014 at 01:03 AM



“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Jill O'Neal - May 02, 2011 at 11:04 AM



“ *Shawnta Jones lit a candle in memory of Kelvin James O'Neal*



Shawnta Jones - April 01, 2011 at 09:16 AM

NS

“ You will truly be missed.....



Nicole Shelton - December 31, 2010 at 12:41 PM

EW

“ I will always remember his kind smile and steadfast friendship.

Ed Walters - December 29, 2010 at 05:55 AM

MF

“ Kelvin was a truly dedicated teacher in the Baltimore City School System. He created opportunities for musically talented young people to gain rewarding experiences in their art. Kelvin had a tremendous spirit for life and exhibited this even during his serious illness. We shall all miss this talented musician and educator. Please accept my sincerest sympathies for your loss. Rest in peace with God, Kelvin.

Sincerely, Muriel Fitzgerald

Frederick Douglass High School (Music Faculty)

Muriel Fitzgerald - December 28, 2010 at 09:23 AM

BH

“ Know that our hearts are with you and we share in your grief. Please accept these words of comfort to help you through this sad times. We know that our cousin Kelvin is in the loving arms of the Lord

Betty Hopson - December 27, 2010 at 07:00 PM

AL

“ *My prayers are with the family during this transitional period.*

A. LaValley - December 25, 2010 at 08:27 PM

 Roger
Evans

“ *To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. To the family of the late great Kelvin James O'Neal, please accept my deepest of heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Kelvin was a very meek gentleman and is already missed. I remember singing with him on the Higgs Special Choir of the Southern Baptist Church. If memory serves me correctly, he was the first President of that group. I remember also his love and devotion in caring for his late parents, Rev. James & Mrs. Leola O'Neal. Please rest assured that he is safely home and free from the cares of this world. Fondly, Mr. Roger N. Evans (and family)*

Roger Evans - December 22, 2010 at 10:59 PM



“ *Master Musician Kelvin O'Neal and Gabriele are looking over some notes in Heaven. Kelvin was well known and loved. Thank you for those Mount Pleasant Youth Days on the 3rd Sunday of January. Your talent was used for the Glory and honor of God. We bow in Holy submission to Him. To the family, it's not good bye, but see him later. As of right now, trust the Lord always for He cares for you.*



Floyd Brice - December 22, 2010 at 06:23 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 - December 21, 2010 at 11:24 AM