



Mrs. Eleanor Kelly

January 29, 1932 - December 10, 2020

Public Viewing for Mrs. Eleanor Kelly will be Monday, December 21, 2020 from 9:00 A.M. till 10:00 A.M. at Good Aim Baptist Church, 1308 Cherokee Blvd, Elgin, SC 29045.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at Good Aim Baptist Church, 1308 Cherokee Blvd, Elgin, SC 29045.

Interment will follow at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Road, Columbia, SC 29229.

Please click the link below to view services for Mrs. Eleanor Kelly <https://www.facebook.com/A-A-Dicks-Funeral-Home-Sullivan-Chapel-115729839828313/>

Please click the link below to view program and obituary for Mrs. Eleanor Kelly <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:1a89d7d7-5da2-4fa0-9e00-534b362856cb>

As a January baby, Eleanor “Nora” Kelly, as she was affectionately known and called, was born on January 29, 1932. She was the third daughter and one of eight children born to Elijah and Alice Kelly, in what was known as Blaney, S. C., now called Elgin, S. C. Eleanor was always a woman of uncommon dignity and grace and as such, she insisted that her children simply call her “Mother.”

Her parents, Elijah and Alice Simons Kelly, were lifelong members of the Good Aim Baptist Church, and Eleanor, along with her siblings, spent most of her free time in church. As expected, she developed a deep and strong relationship with Christ at an early age, which would help her live the rest of her life to the fullest.

In 1954, her father, Elijah, Sr., built a new family home on Langford Road in Blythewood, S.C., and moved his expanding family of six daughters and one son into this new brick home. Eleanor and her siblings grew up having inherited a rich legacy of faith, family, character, integrity, and leadership. Education was especially important to her parents, and she and her siblings were expected to excel without exception. As a young girl, Eleanor attended the former segregated Bethel School and excelled as an "A" scholarly student. At the age of 16, she joined her older sisters in Washington, D.C., where she completed her education. She later moved to New York City, where she resided for 10 years before returning to Washington, D.C. to be closer to her siblings.

It was in D.C., that Eleanor gave her life to the Lord under the Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Ministry. She later became a member of Evangel Temple in D.C., where she was a member for many years. Eleanor and members of her family later joined Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, also in D.C., as Bishop Alfred Owens, Jr., launched his initial ministry where she was a dedicated member.

A quiet, pensive, introspective, and delicate woman with a spirit of selflessness, Eleanor was never one to shout about her own achievements, yet she was able to accomplish a lot during the time God gave her. Shortly after settling in Washington, D. C., she became a music librarian at the former WTOP Radio, as they transitioned to an all-music format during the early '60s. The station was originally started and owned by a KKK Grand Wizard in

Virginia, but quickly became the leading radio station in the DC metropolitan area. It was there that Eleanor, the first African American Music Librarian for the station was instrumental in ensuring that the WTOP DJs personally sampled the latest music releases from a variety of selected black and white artists. The music of these artists was played and transmitted to audiences during broadcasting by the radio personalities which provided entertainment and helped shape the lives of Washingtonians during their daily commute to and from work, and even at home.

In this capacity, Eleanor was the support arm for many of the old R&B legends such as James Brown, Marvin Gay, Percy Sledge, Wilson Pickett, Red Fox, Moms Mabley, Little Richard, Clarence Carter, Irma Thomas, Chuck Berry, Big Joe Turner, Johnnie Lee Hooker, Sam Cook, the Temptations, the Four Tops, the Supremes...and even Jerry Lee Lewis – as their music helped shape what we know as soul and rock and roll. Eleanor managed and had access to their appearances at various venues, interviews, public appearances, and concerts at the famous Howard Theater. This included coveted backstage passes and invitations to receptions and dinners. Her love of music during this time was fueled by the unusually large assortment of LP records she collected over the years which includes spirituals, gospel, jazz, and the blues.

Seeking a different employment experience and an advanced opportunity, Eleanor was subsequently employed with the Federal government for 19 years, including the U. S. Marshals Service, the Treasury Department, the National Science Foundation, the HQ Air Force Systems Command, the Agriculture Department, and Vandenberg AFB in Santa Barbara, California. However, it was at the Treasury Department that she met the love of her life, her Prince Charming, Moses Kelly, who often referred to her as “Puddin’ Foot.” She and Moses eventually relocated to Santa Barbara, California during former President Ronald Reagan’s term of office, where Moses was

assigned to duty at the Western White House. Upon returning to the D.C. metropolitan area, she and Moses began to plan their retirement and decided that after long careers for both, they would relocate to Blythewood, South Carolina, the home of Eleanor's youth.

Once in South Carolina, she and Moses began building their retirement home while Moses completed his last few years of work in Washington, D. C., before retiring from the U. S. Secret Service. During this time, Eleanor immediately reconnected with the church of her youth, formerly, The Good Aim Baptist Church, and became active in numerous church activities.

Never one to stand on the sidelines, she served as a pillar of strength and a faithful member of the church where she joined the former Missionary Society (currently called the Sisterhood Ministry). In addition, she provided wise counsel to many members who sought her out for advice on everything from personal relationships to career planning. She became the Historian of the church and diligently worked on completing the first written history of the Good Aim Missionary Baptist Church. Eleanor also served for several years as the Adult Sunday School teacher.

During this time, she also became engaged in numerous community activities including volunteering at the McKissick Museum on the campus of the University of South Carolina, taking classes in a variety of subjects at the University of South Carolina, and using her artistic talents in creating beautiful pottery, knitting, jewelry making, sewing beautiful quilts and pillows which she gave as gifts, and collecting art. She volunteered for numerous events so not surprisingly, her face was a familiar one at the United Way, Jerry Lewis telethons, NAACP events, the Kroger Theater, and the Columbia Christian Women's Association. In addition, she was a member of The Society, Inc., an organization supportive of the arts in the Columbia area.

In 1990, her husband retired from the Federal government, and joined her in South Carolina as they both looked forward to fully enjoying their retirement years. Many of her retirement dreams were cut short however, when her father passed after arriving in Washington, D. C., for her husband's retirement celebration. With great faith and the resolve of the biblical Esther, she and Moses took on the responsibility as Caregivers to her mother, Alice Kelly, for 21 years, until her death in 2008. Through it all, Eleanor continued to live her life with purpose, never complaining about this unforeseen path that God had destined.

"I have made it with all the pockets I have to draw on when there is no one but me to depend on. God puts some sunshine, sweet thoughts and smiles upon my heart, strength that I did not know that I had, and unspeakable joy. Then the burden gets lighter and another day has passed, and all becomes well."
Nora, 2006

Throughout the years, Eleanor received many awards for her kind heart and gentle spirit from her church and faith community as well as from organizations to whom she volunteered her time. Equally, she was honored for her charitable work and financial contributions throughout the Columbia area. Organizations for which she volunteered included the United Way and the McKissick Museum. She was also recognized by the Midlands Alzheimer's Association for her untiring work as a Caregiver, and as a seminar speaker on the subject in the Columbia Midlands area.

In addition to her caregiving duties and responsibilities, Eleanor diligently served as an Administrator for the former Deacon Elijah Kelly, Sr., Memorial Scholarship Fund for 25 years, which was established in honor of her late father. This program provided educational scholarships to students of the Good Aim Missionary Baptist Church to assist them in completing their college education.

Eleanor is preceded in death by her husband, Moses B. Kelly, whom she affectionately called "MB." She leaves her legacy of love to her children, Doris E. Coleman, Blythewood, S. C. and Bruce W. Branch, Oxon Hill, Md; five beautiful grandchildren: Robert (Carmeil), Bethani, Kelly, Nathaniel, and Maya; 3 great-grandchildren, Kala, Kai, and Kaya; three loving and devoted sisters, Mrs. Alberta Colbert, Stone Mountain, GA; Mrs. Melva Brinkley (James), Washington, D.C.; Dr. Grace Coffey (William, deceased), Ellicott City, MD; and one brother, Elijah Kelly, Sr. (Joan), Silver Spring, MD, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and extended loving family members.

She is also preceded in death by her parents, Elijah and Alice Kelly, Sr., her sisters, Mrs. Allie Brewton, Dr. Mae Wright, and Dr. Florine Jones. Eleanor will forever be remembered and known by her formal and elegant, yet unarming dignity, whose grace and beauty defined her. She was, without question, a woman of character, personality, intelligence, and beauty – an inspirational woman because of her resolve during some of life's difficulties.

Her sisters and brother called her an "Angel." Her friends simply call her "wonderful." Her children will tell you that her tiara is the thorny crown that is reserved for those who have suffered hardships, endured storms, survived predicaments and life's valley experience. Her sail, like those of us who have had a real adventure, has become the rose that brightens the life of us all. Her thorny path may usher tears to stream down our face, but her resiliency motivates all of us to rise from the ashes of mediocrity and fulfill our dreams and God's destiny for our lives.

"There is a within each of us a potential for goodness, beyond our imagination, for giving without seeking rewards, for listening without judging,

for loving unconditionally. That potential is our goal. We can approach it in large and small ways every minute of the day, if we only try.” Nora

Eleanor was a woman of extraordinary grace and dignity sent to us by God for such a time as this. Rest in peace our dear Eleanor, our loving mother, our sweet sister, our wonderful friend, for God has called your name and you have finally received your regal crown!

Please leave the Kelly family your condolences and prayers.

The Kelly family, acknowledges with grateful appreciation, all of your kind expressions of love and sympathy.

Thank you for helping us care for our families.

A. A. Dicks, Sr. and Staff.

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Cemetery Details

Fort Jackson National Cemetery

4170 Percival Road
Columbia, SC 29229

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC 21. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Good Aim Baptist Church
1308 Cherokee Blvd
Elgin, SC 29045

Funeral Service

DEC 21. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Good Aim Baptist Church
1308 Cherokee Blvd
Elgin, SC 29045

Tribute Wall

SC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mrs. Kelly’s passing. Prayers for her family during this difficult time.

Stephanie Curry - January 02, 2021 at 11:01 PM

MJ

“ Wonderful service! I didn’t know Sister Eleanor personally, but I’ve met her many, many times. I’m a member of her sister Melva’s church in Washington, DC., and 3 of the sisters were eulogized in DC where Eleanor was in attendance. As well as meeting her at church services. It would be an honor if I were to receive the accolades as were given to Eleanor at the time of my demise. She like her siblings was and are definitely truly faithful CHRISTians! Not because they claim it, but because they live it. They all have that strong live like Christ commitment. I’ve seen their walk and have heard their talk, and it is all about their faith practice on a daily basis. Eleanor, enjoy that special room in God’s mansion and Rest in Heavenly Peace!💜🙏🌹🌹🌹

Ms M J Johnson - December 21, 2020 at 02:47 PM

DC

Thank you so much for your kind words and remembrances about Mother.

Daughter. Doris Coleman

Doris Coleman - January 02, 2021 at 09:05 PM

DC

“ We love you Aunt Nora and will miss you deeply. However, rest well in the bosom of Christ and kiss my Mom for me. Abundant Peace, Blessings and Joy - Forever. I love you to life!



Dr. Melva Covington - December 21, 2020 at 09:46 AM

DC

*Thanks Melva
I can well imagine that the Kelly girls Aunt Mae, Aunt Lee, Aunt Flo are having a shouting time in the kingdom. Well done, my good and faithful servants. Glory to the most high God.*

Doris Coleman - January 02, 2021 at 09:09 PM

CW

“ *Cleveland Williams & family*

Cleveland Williams - December 20, 2020 at 12:40 PM

RA

“ My deepest condolences to the Kelly clan on the transition of their beloved Eleanor, especially her son Bruce and daughter Doris (who lovingly cared for her during the past few years), her siblings Elijah J, Bert, Melva, and my good friend for many years Grace.



I remember Eleanor as a kind, elegant lady, petite in stature but with a big heart. Just as her daughter became her caregiver, so had Eleanor been the loving caregiver for Mother Alice.

Praying that your strong faith in God and the love and support of family and friends will help to sustain you during this season of pain.

*Ruth M. Antoine and Family
Ellicott City, Maryland*

Ruth M. Antoine - December 20, 2020 at 09:56 AM

DC

*Thank you so much for your kind words about Mother. She was such a special lady. As her Caregiver, it became increasingly painful to see her diminish as a result of Alzheimer's. I miss her terribly but so cherish her memory and the great times we shared. Thank you!
Doris. Daughter*

Doris Coleman - January 02, 2021 at 09:13 PM

RB

“ As her former Pastor, I will never forget Sis. Kelly, her husband, her mother, her siblings, and the entire Kelly family for the love and devotion share with me and my family during my time as their Shepherd. A beautiful spirit and a beautiful family. I will not say we have lost her because you can't lose someone when you know where they are. We all know where Sis. Kelly is because we know how she live. She has now taken her place with her mother and her father but most of all her Heavenly Father and has now become a member of the 'cloud of witnesses' the Apostle Paul spoke about. Servant of God, well done, rest from thy love employ. Your battle is fought and the victory won.....I'll see you again, 'in the morning'.

Rev. Michael Buckson - December 19, 2020 at 11:51 PM

DC

Thank you so much. Rev. Buckson
Doris, Daughter and Caregiver

Doris Coleman - January 02, 2021 at 09:16 PM

DC

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



DORIS E. COLEMAN - December 16, 2020 at 06:18 PM

RW

“ *With heartfelt sympathy and love.
Such a beautiful spirit that will truly be
missed.*

Willie & Renee' Cloud



Renee Williams-Cloud - December 16, 2020 at 05:50 PM

KH

*Condolences to an angel whose Sister Grace Coffey we were
informed. Myself, my husband and Grace are all members of St. John
Baptist Church in Columbia, Md. Rev. Dr. Robert A.F. Turner is the
Senior Pastor.*

Karen H - December 20, 2020 at 12:33 PM

“My mother's physical presence is gone, but her beautiful spirit remains with me and resonates with my soul. Oh, how I miss her and the great times we spent together, our laughter and joy as well as our battling her disease together. Our prayers! I also miss the difficult times especially of the last few months when you were unable to sleep and so was I. You were never alone. God orchestrated every minute, every step of my taking care of you. As a reminder, he made it a part of the plan that he had for my life. Like Jonah, I wanted to run and hide, but rather he exposed me and taught me an intimate lesson about His will and His way. And I simply obeyed...and asked him for strength and guidance. And just like a wonderful and caring Father, he covered us both with his Grace and Mercy and our bad days turned into good days, our tears turned into laughter and we dared not complain.

In the latter years, you became my baby as I was once yours. You will always be with us for you live in your children, grandchildren, and great-grands. You were an amazing little lady, abound with energy, an impeccable sense of elegance, your sense of style that paid homage to an era long lost where dignified church women wore hats and gloves always to church. I guess I will have to start wearing some of your numerous gloves and hats! You encouraged me and supported everything I wanted to do. I honored you by naming my fine arts and craft gallery after you, Nora's Place Fine Arts and Crafts Gallery.

You and God have taught me about caregiving, about patience, about loving through difficult times, about giving until your heart feels like it will break into pieces, about waiting on God, and fervent prayer. I thank God for allowing me to share these last few years with you and care for you as you navigated your older years and your illness. You made me a better woman, a closer friend and confidante, as God made me a true and faithful daughter of his kingdom. Rest well, my love. I shall see you when my name is called!

*Your Loving Daughter,
Doris*

DORIS E. COLEMAN - December 16, 2020 at 04:20 PM

MW

*Our Sympathy goes out to the Kelly Family. We will truly miss Our
Lovely Porcelain Doll. Much Love Decon McKinley & Yvonne Williams*

McKinley Williams - December 21, 2020 at 09:40 AM

DM

“ *Debra J Mack sent a virtual gift in memory of
Mrs. Eleanor Kelly*



Debra j mack - December 15, 2020 at 10:38 PM