



Ms. Zelles H. ("Nannie") Kelly

December 13, 1920 - September 29, 2008

Zelles H. Kelly 87, a life long resident of Kalamazoo, Michigan went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, September 29, 2008. She was preceded in death by her parents Oscar and Mary Hayes, sister Odessa Hayes, and Aunt & Uncle Rev. Moses and Charity Thomas. "Zelly" as she was called by her friends was born December 13, 1920 in Memphis, Tennessee to Oscar & Mary Hayes. Zelly moved to Kalamazoo at an early age. Due to the death of her parents she was raised by her Aunt and Uncle the Rev. Moses & Charity Thomas. Zelly accepted Christ at an early age at Allen Chapel AME Church where she was a faithful member for over 50 years. Zelly graduated from Kalamazoo Central High school and Parsons Business School. She met and married Harvey R. Kelly and from that union was blessed with her only child Sandra. Zelly was employed by Master Cleaners as a silk finisher. She later joined the Upjohn Company where she retired. Always an active person Zelles continued to work after retirement at the Oakwood Elementary School as a play ground attendant. She also worked nearly every election for the past 25 years. Zelles was excited about the upcoming election. Her interest included being a member of the Las Amigas Federated Club, an avid bowler (achieving a perfect 300 game), modeling and a professional caliber jitterbug dancer (with trophy's and pictures to prove it). She loved to recite beautiful sonnets and could even in her later years recite a poem on demand. Zelles enjoyed making beautiful pottery and crafts which are represented in many of our homes. Zelles loved her church home, Allen Chapel AME and was member of

the usher board. She was known for top sells for various church and social events as well as her many beautiful hats. Zelles received many awards and distinctions during her life time including most recently the Delta award for Women of the Year this spring. "Nannie" as she was affectionately called by her family is survived by daughter, Sandra K. Baker; 4 grandchildren, Lyle S. Baker Jr, Rhonda L. Baker-Smith, Harvey (Zanetta) Baker Sr, and Andrea (Carl) Page; 12 Great-grandchildren, Shaunte' (Marketta) Baker Sr., Ariel Z. R. Baker, Montrel O. D. Baker, Abriance C. N. Baker, Karlyn A. Page, Kendall K. Page, Donte' M. Hudson, Harvey R.K. Baker Jr., Jasmine D. Hudson, Akeyla G. Smith, Carly A. Page and Lillian H. Baker; 4 Great-great Grandchildren, Shaunte' M. Baker Jr., Angel P. Baker, Zaniya M. Baker and Luke D. Baker; and a host of relatives and friends.

Zelles was known as a person who loved her family, lived life to the fullest, embraced people where ever she went with a warm joyful smile and words of encouragement. She will be greatly remembered for her many beautiful hats.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home Inc.
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Service

OCT 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Allen Chapel AME Church
804 W North Street
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Zelles H. ("Nannie") Kelly*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Ms. Zelles H. ("Nannie") Kelly*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Sandy,
My prayers are with you at this time with the loss of your wonderful mom. I will always remember Zelles with that incredible smile (you have the same one). Keep smiling, my friend because your mother is with Jesus. Love to your children and grandchildren.##imported-begin##Katie Hairston##imported-end##*

October 03, 2008 at 07:45 AM



“ *Rhonda and family, my sincerest condolences to your family - I remember Nannie from when you all were over on Bridge St.*

Take care and rest in Him.##imported-begin##Vicki Sturdivant Stokes##imported-end##

October 02, 2008 at 01:59 PM



“ Lyle, Rhonda, Harvey

Your Grandma is with the Lord now, and is healed in so many ways. She lived a life full of love for you guys, and is now truly at peace. God bless you all.

Daryl Sturdivant###imported-begin##Daryl Sturdivant###imported-end##

October 02, 2008 at 10:05 AM



“ DEAREST RHONDA AND FAMILY, OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO YOUR AT THIS TIME. AS YOU KNOW NANNIE WAS LOVED AND RESPECTED BY MANY FOLKS OF EVERY PERSUASION. SHE WAS DELIGHTFUL TO BE AROUND. I WAS AMAZED EACH TIME I SAW HER THAT SHE REMEMBERED ME. HER READINGS WAS ALWAYS WELL RECEIVED AND WE ALL ARE GOING TO MISS HER. HOWEVER, WE ALL KNOW, IT IS NOT ABOUT THIS PHYSICAL LIFE EXCEPT TO PREPARE FOR THE ONE TO COME. SHE FINISHED HER RACE, SHE RAN HER COURSE WELL. WE WILL WAIT NOW PRAYERFULLY, UNTIL GOD PUT THE FINISHING TOUCH ON HIS KINGDOM AND SET US UP WITH THAT BIG FAMILY REUNION HE IS PREPARING FOR HIS CHILDREN. GOD BLESS YOU IN COURAGE, STRENGTH AND HOPE AS YOU ADJUST TO THIS HUGE LOSS. LOVE AND BEST WISHES TO EACH OF YOU###imported-begin##cleophus & cathy sturdivant###imported-end##

October 02, 2008 at 09:35 AM



“ I have had the pleasure to spend time with Zelly while working the elections. Her beautiful presence will be missed.

-kc##imported-begin##Kirsten Clemens##imported-end##

October 01, 2008 at 09:09 PM



“ Sandy,Lyle, Rhonda,Harvey,Niecey & Family, it is with great agony and Joy, that we adjust to Zelly's passing, but celebrate her homegoing. Zelly our former neighbor,second mother,car pooler, and co-worker. Instumental in getting her oldest three grandchildren to babysit our two sons Jay & Andre. Zelly was God's gift to us, and we greatly admired her activeness in the community. May God Bless you all, our prayers are with you.....John 14:1-3##imported-begin##RJ and Anita McKinney-Wilkerson##imported-end##

October 01, 2008 at 07:50 PM



“ To Ms. Baker, Neicey and Family;

You guys have done well in sending your mom and grandmother home. This exemplifies the example she set before you. Know that she will always live in your heart. No time doesn't heal all wounds, but you will learn how to live on. You are in our prayers and yes, the same God who came for Nannie, is the same God who will hold you up during this time of bereavement. Remember, YOU ARE NEVER ALONE!!!!##imported-begin##Jackie & Barry Smith & family##imported-end##

October 01, 2008 at 01:16 PM



“ *To Sandy and Family Members*

We send our sympathy and prayers that God will sustain you in your hour of grief.

Your Mother left a living legacy for all who was blessed to be in her presence, we will miss her smile and laughter.

In His Love,

Marshall and Anne Pearson

*McCormick, S. Carolina##imported-begin##Marshall & Anne
Pearson##imported-end##*

October 01, 2008 at 11:32 AM