



Willie Kelley

December 10, 1938 - July 1, 2024

Willie Rufus Kelley was born on December 10, 1938, in Starkville, Mississippi, to parents Rufus and Q.T. Kelley. He was one of two siblings. Willie was a dedicated member of Sixteen Section Baptist Church in Starkville, MS, and he accepted Christ at an early age.

Willie was committed to his education and the education of others. He earned a two-year degree from Mary Holmes College and went on to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Early Education from Alcorn State University. Furthering his education, he received his Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Mississippi State University.

With a passion for teaching, Willie devoted his career to instructing 4th and 5th-grade students in Social Studies and Science at several elementary schools in Lowndes County. His dedication to education extended beyond the classroom; he was an active member of the Retired Teachers Association and volunteered his time at the Boys and Girls Club. Willie was preceded in death by his loving wife Helen Kelley and parents, Rufus and Q.T. Kelley. He is survived by his sister, Addie Slade of Decatur, GA; his children, MesaZatie Kelley (Donna) and Marchete Kelley-Cole; his grandchildren, Arthella Williams-Moore, Kimberlen Kelley, India Cole, and Ronni Harper; his great-grandson, Jaxon Moore; and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and special friends.

Willie's legacy of dedication, education, and faith will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. He leaves behind a lasting impact on

his family, friends, and the many students whose lives he touched.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Gardens

176 S Frontage Rd
columbus, MS 39701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Lee-Sykes Funeral Home
422 12th Street North
Columbus, MS 39705
(662) 328-4335
leesykes@cableone.net
<http://www.leesykesfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

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