



Atiba Kee

May 23, 1942 - December 23, 2023

Atiba Kee, 81, of Lilburn, GA passed on Saturday, December 23, 2023. Celebration of Life (Memorial Service) will be held on Friday, January 5, 2024, 1:00 PM, at New Bethel AME Church 8350 Rockbridge Rd SW Lithonia, GA 30058, Senior Pastor, Rev. Will Thomas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Atiba's memory to the New Bethel AME Church Building Fund. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2PA/campaign/C-14KAA>

Born Ireland O'Brien Kee III in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in May 1942, the eldest son of Ireland O'Brien Kee, Jr. and Thelma Kee was known as "Sonny" in his youth, but later changed his name to Atiba. The family migrated to Wheaton, Illinois when he was a toddler. He learned his work ethic by helping his father with "Kee and Sons", a building maintenance service, and by being the big brother to seven siblings. After graduating from Wheaton Community High School in 1960, he went on to study on a football scholarship at Wheaton College where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1964. He began his career at Western Electric in Chicago before entering the U.S. Air Force. He served as an aircraft electronics technician, stationed in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

After completing his Air Force enlistment, he returned to Western Electric in

New York City and worked several years as an accounting systems auditor before entering the 'new' field of computer programming. He continued working there after Western Electric became AT&T, then Lucent Technologies and later Optical Fiber Solutions (OFS), retiring in 2002 after a career spanning 38 years in technology and computer systems programming. While at AT&T/Lucent, he was active in the Alliance of Black Telecommunications Employees, serving a term as Atlanta Chapter President and mentoring many young Black professionals as they sought to navigate the technology sector. He also served on the Diversity Council of the Atlanta Works location of AT&T/Lucent Technologies. Atiba was in the vanguard who pushed for equitable salary treatment and advancement of African American employees in the corporation.

From a prior marriage Atiba was blessed with two daughters, Ayana and Dalila. Atiba later met Linda Lovett, a colleague in the IT department at AT&T, and the two were married in 1996. To this union one son, Nkosi, was born. Atiba and Linda served as loving parents/parental figures to their children and extended family.

Throughout his life, Atiba was interested in sports and healthy living. After playing football in high school and college, he later trained for and competed in bodybuilding competitions. He was an avid tennis player in local ALTA and USTA leagues until his health began to decline.

At an early age, Atiba accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized at Second Baptist Church in Wheaton, IL. He and Linda have been active members of New Bethel AME Church, Lithonia, GA, since joining in 2000. Atiba served in multiple capacities over the years, including as a member of the Men's Ministry, the Male Usher Board, and the Trustee Board.

Atiba's sense of humor and dry wit made him fast friends with everyone who

knew him. He loved to talk about jazz, football, and tennis. He was a true jazz aficionado, having built an expansive collection of albums and CDs of both traditional and contemporary jazz artists.

Atiba Ireland O'Brien Kee, 81, of Lilburn, Georgia, passed away on December 23, 2023. Atiba was predeceased by his father, his mother, his brother Donald, and his sister Betty.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of over 27 years, Linda, two daughters: Ayana (Nathan) and Dalila, son, Atiba Nkosi, grandchildren: Elianna and DeAngelo, brothers: Moscovitz, Arnold (Billye), Kenneth, Nelson (Dell), and Gallagher (Carol), close family friend Albert (Darlene), and many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Please express your condolences here on our website. Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, Gwinnett Chapel, 914 Scenic Hwy Lawrenceville, GA 30045 (770)338-5558.

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration of Life

JAN 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Bethel AME Church
8350 Rockbridge Road
Lithonia, GA 30058
<http://www.newbethelame.org>

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Dearest Linda, NKosi, Dalila, Ayana & Family! We extend to you our deepest condolences to you at this time of great sorrow. Please know that although your McKelton Family cannot be with you physically, we share and deeply feel your sorrow, your tears, your pain, joy, and laughter. We pray God’s peace be with you as you go through the coming days, weeks, months and years of healing. We will never forget Atiba and his fellowship at Family Reunions. May he rest with our Heavenly Father. For we believe that those who know the Lord Jesus, never die but live eternally in the light of God!

We commemorate his life and have sent a Love Token to the New Bethel AME Building Fund:

Ava Fobbs, Martha Waller, Timothy McKelton, Samuel McKelton, Terri McKelton, Jenetta O’Neal & Arnita Traylor

We Love You! 🙏❤️
Your cousins

Rev.. Arnita Traylor (McKelton Family) - January 04, 2024 at 08:42 PM

TF

“ The Chenault and Thornton Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Atiba Kee.

The Chenault and Thornton Families - January 04, 2024 at 05:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Atiba Kee.*



January 04, 2024 at 05:12 PM



“ *Linda, I would like to express my sincerest heartfelt condolences to you and your family. You have always spoke very fondly of your husband, and with such passion in the way you cared for him. I pray for comfort in knowing that you loved him unconditionally, and with every ounce of breath you had. Thinking of you and your family 🙏🙏🙏*
Annette/Allen Jordan



Annette Jordan - December 31, 2023 at 10:38 AM



“ *Linda Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this sorrowful time."You have my deepest Sympathy. Shirley Johnson Lucent Tech.*



Shirley Johnson - December 29, 2023 at 08:26 PM