



Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis

July 30, 1955 - October 3, 2022

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://vimeo.com/757338926>

On Monday, October 3, 2022, Kenneth Gregory Davis passed away peacefully after experiencing an extended illness. He was surrounded by his family at his home in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

He entered this life on July 30, 1955, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the first of two children born to the late Julian Isaac Davis and Grace Latimore Davis. The family remained in Philadelphia for a few months until his father, Julian, finished his coursework at Temple University, at which time they returned home to Sandersville, Georgia. At an early age, joined Oak Grove Baptist Church. Until the age of five, Kenneth spent a fair amount of time in Fort Valley, Georgia where his mother, Grace, completed her coursework at Fort Valley State College.

Kenneth received his early education at T. J. Elder Elementary, attended T. J. Elder High, and graduated from Washington County High School in 1973. During his high school years, Kenneth was an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement locally in Sandersville. Influenced by his father, Julian, a leader in the Black community, Kenneth continued to exhibit a strong passion for standing up for his beliefs throughout his lifetime. He was an avid reader of Black history, always striving to learn more about the individuals and events

that shaped our lives.

Kenneth earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia in 1977. As he contemplated future career opportunities, he later returned to study law at the UGA Law School in 1984. He would later study at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute/National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Having begun his career as the first Black broadcaster at WSNT Radio in Sandersville during high school, Kenneth continued in this field at radio stations in Athens, Georgia, and Macon, Georgia. In 1979, desiring to continue the commitment to serve his country as his father and grandfather had done, Kenneth joined the Coast Guard and served until 1985. It was during this time that he began his career in emergency public information while serving as a member of the United States Coast Guard's Public Information Assistance team in Washington, D. C., responding to oil and hazardous materials incidents worldwide.

Following his honorable discharge from the Coast Guard and after pursuing a couple of different employment opportunities, Kenneth continued his career in public information upon joining the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) as a Senior Public Relations & Information Specialist in 1989. He faithfully served the people of Georgia, coordinating and reporting on various emergencies throughout the state, until he retired in 2015.

As fate would have it, Kenneth began to date his future wife, a young lady from his hometown of Sandersville, Georgia, while stationed at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington. The former Janice Chapelle Dabney, a dear friend of his sister, Darlene, was attending training classes for her job with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The two connected, and on August 4, 1984, Kenneth married the love of his life at Springfield Baptist Church in

Sandersville. Their union was blessed with four sons – Julian, Jonathan, Jason, and Jordan. Kenneth and Chapelle raised their sons in Stone Mountain, Georgia, with Kenneth coaching and Chapelle cheering on their sons during baseball, basketball, and football games both in their church league and at Wade Walker Park. Kenneth felt strongly that it was important to support their sons in all of their endeavors, so that, in his words, “they would enjoy being at home.”

Throughout their childhood and into their adult lives, Kenneth steadfastly supported his sons, helping them to fulfill the primary goal that he and Chapelle had for them – to become God-fearing, law-abiding, contributing members of society. To this end, both Kenneth and Chapelle actively participated in school activities, serving in a variety of roles. They also exposed their sons and grandchildren to travel experiences highlighted with both fun and learning activities. Some of their most memorable excursions involved a cross-county road trip along Route 66, and travel to Jamaica, and the Bahamas, as well as Hawaii. Kenneth ensured that his sons would appreciate that they were part of something bigger than themselves as they crisscrossed the United States to participate in many Davis-Hodges family reunions, from Georgia to Florida to Philadelphia to New York to D.C. to Virginia to California and back again. Kenneth truly loved his family and contributed a significant amount of time to researching the family history. He was the unofficial family historian. Actually, some of his and Chapelle’s first dates were spent at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Kenneth and Chapelle led their family to join Greenforest Community Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia in 1994 under the pastorate Rev. George O. McCalep, Jr., Ph.D. He was a devoted member, participating in Fulfillment Hour (Sunday School) and Wednesday night bible study. He served faithfully as a trustee for several years until his death.

In addition to his passion for his family, Kenneth was an avid blues and gospel music enthusiast. He spent time collecting memorabilia and attending blues festivals and museums. During the latter part of his life and in retirement, Kenneth was particularly enamored with B.B. King and had the privilege of attending the blues legend's funeral in Indianola, Mississippi.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his son, Gregory Bernard Davis in 1995. Prior to Gregory's death, Kenneth enjoyed father-son trips with Gregory. He was proud that Gregory joined the U.S. Navy, following in his footsteps of serving the nation on vessels and waterways throughout the world.

Kenneth is survived by his devoted wife of 38 years, Chapelle Dabney Davis; four sons, Julian (Ashlee) Davis, Atlanta, Georgia, Jonathan (Janée) Davis, Syracuse, New York, Jason Davis and Jordan Davis, Stone Mountain, Georgia; one sister, Darlene (Wayne) Mitchell, Stone Mountain, Georgia; four grandchildren, Gregory Davis, Jr., Tennille, Georgia, and Kenya Davis, Sandersville, Georgia, Kanaan Davis and Yara Davis, Atlanta Georgia; two great-grandchildren, Noah Davis, Sandersville, Georgia and Zion Davis, Sandersville, Georgia; one aunt, Mrs. Evelyn Robinson, Attalla, Alabama; three uncles, Mr. Chapman J. "CJ" Davis, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mr. Crawford W. "CW" (Sallie) Johnson, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Mr. Wilbert Maynor, Sylvania, Georgia; three nephews, Victor Walker, Sr., Sandersville, Georgia, Steven Braddy, Augusta, Georgia, Keith (Tamika) Walker, Wrens, Georgia; two nieces, Monica Hurst, Tennille, Georgia and Jasmine Mitchell, Atlanta, Georgia; and a host of relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT 7. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 241-5656

The family of Mr. Davis will be present and available to receive your condolences and words of comfort between 5:00PM and 7:00PM.

Celebration of Life (Mask Required)

OCT 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Greenforest Community Baptist Church
3250 Rainbow Dr,
Decatur, GA 30034

Celebration of Life (Mask Required)

OCT 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Oak Grove Baptist Church
450 Oak Grove Rd.,
Sandersville, GA 31082

Tribute Wall

NO

“ He was a great friend to my brother (Buzz Weiss). His kindness to him and to my mother will never be forgotten.

*Rest in peace, Ken. Say hi to Buzzie for me.
Nadine F. Ostrowski*

Nadine F Ostrowski - April 18, 2023 at 05:56 AM

CW

“ Our prayers and condolences to the Davis family. May God forever strengthen.

Winford (Honey) Atkins-Walters Fort Lauderdale Fla. & Catherine Atkins Williams (class of 1973) Hallandale Fla.

Catherine Williams - October 08, 2022 at 08:48 PM

EP

“ We offer our prayers to comfort the Davis Family at this time. Remembering fun times at Greenforest 5-8 basketball games, Morehouse days, and 1st home away from home with Julian and Brian. May God grant you understanding and peace.

The Presley Family

Edward Presley - October 08, 2022 at 12:44 PM

RS

“ We truly have lost a treasure. To the Davis family, I want to express my deepest condolence for the lost of my cousin Kenny Davis. No longer the toil of this life is his struggle, but the rest and the ever present of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is now his joy forever. His smile and love of life will not be forgotten.
From the Stephens family in Maryland.
Rev. and Mrs. John Wendell Stephens

Rev. John Wendell Stephens - October 08, 2022 at 12:30 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.



October 07, 2022 at 11:35 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.



October 07, 2022 at 09:19 PM

SJ

“ With our deepest sympathies. Rest In Peace.
Melvin (Class of 73) and Sandra Johnson.

Sandra Johnson - October 07, 2022 at 06:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 07, 2022 at 06:34 PM



“ *To the Davis Family,
We pray that God will comfort you all during this most difficult time.
Sincerely,
The Jenkins Family*

Shawna Waters-Jenkins - October 07, 2022 at 06:08 PM



“ *Sis. Chappelle and family we offer our deepest sympathy in your earthly loss of Bro. Ken who always exemplified sincere dedication to his God, family and friends. It was always a joy to see the Davis family enter the sanctuary...Mom and Dad with children following. If anyone came in late the family made sure a space would be available to keep them together. Bro. Ken has gone ahead but is waiting for his family in heaven. May God continue to bless and keep you.
Deacon Melvin and Connie Haynes at GF*

Melvin Haynes - October 07, 2022 at 04:08 PM

TM

“ *Tommie Merritt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis*



Tommie Merritt - October 07, 2022 at 01:53 PM

TM

Condolences to the Davis family. My prayer is that God will comfort you during this most difficult time.

Tommie Merritt - October 07, 2022 at 01:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 07, 2022 at 01:14 PM

FE

“ *FRB Atlanta ELC purchased the Heavenly Sentiments Spray for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



FRB Atlanta ELC - October 07, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 06, 2022 at 11:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 06, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 06, 2022 at 03:33 PM



“ *Our families go back 40 years. Chapelle and I were college friends and our children attended many of the same primary schools. It was the friendship between Kenny and my husband that I will always cherish. They were there for each other especially these last few years when medical issues touched both their lives. Love to Chapelle, Julian, Jonathan, Jason, Jordan, all the grands, Darlene, Jasmine and extended family. Kenny is missed!*

Tonya Phillips - October 06, 2022 at 03:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 06, 2022 at 01:14 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 06, 2022 at 12:34 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.*



October 06, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ *Kenny was my 2nd cuz but he was more like my big brother too I can remember going to Sandersville when I was a kid and everybody would be at Granddaddy Mack house or over to Uncle Julian house he always was very protective of all his girl cuz Kenny was a true solider I'm going to miss you cuz tell my brother Michael hello I know y'all going to be alright together continue to watch over us love you Kenneth Gregory Davis*

Cecelia "CC" Hodges - October 06, 2022 at 10:02 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth Gregory Davis.



October 06, 2022 at 09:51 AM



“ I will always love you as a father loves a perfect son. No statement is more appropriate than “This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.” Crawford(C.W.)

Dr. Crawford W. Johnson - October 06, 2022 at 08:54 AM



“ Coach Kenny Davis and I met at Wade Walker Park over 15 years ago when his son Jason was playing QB on football . Over the years Jason and Sax played baseball and football at the park. I met his other 3 sons and his wife Chapelle. Coach Kenny and other coaches would meet at their home to view film and fellowship. Family was always first with Kenny, and those lessons were instilled in his sons. God bless and keep the Davis Family. We had some great memories on the baseball and football fields and cookouts, fundraisers and road trips. RIP Coach Kenny Davis.

Ollis Robinson - October 06, 2022 at 07:40 AM



“ I will always remember you Kenny for your love of FRIED CHICKEN! You will be missed! My condolences with prayers and love goes out to the family! I love you all sooooooooooooo muuuuuuuuuuuuch! Praying always!
God-Mother/God-Auntie Lou Jean Rudd

Mother Lou Jean Rudd - October 05, 2022 at 01:41 PM