

Pallbearers

Henry Manning    James Woods    Larry Green  
Reverend Bobby Cunningham    Fletcher Goines

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Dr. Joe E. Kelly, wish to thank each of you for your phone calls, prayers, and loving acts of kindness shown to us, during this difficult time. May God bless each of you with His grace and mercy.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to:

Bethel Handberry Alumni Association  
P. O. Box 847  
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

*The Final Flight*

*Don't grieve for me, for now, I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard His call,  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the end of the day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah, yes, these things, too I will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full; I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now; He set me free.*

Author Unknown

**Services Entrusted To:**

<p><b>Taylor Street Chapel</b> 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799 I. S. Leevy Johnson -Owner &amp; Director-</p>	<p><b>Leevy's</b> FUNERAL HOME</p>	<p><b>Lower Richland Chapel</b> 9120 Garners Ferry Road Hopkins, SC 29061 (803) 776-6922 Leverette A. Williams, II -General Manager-</p>
	<p>Chris Leevy Johnson -President &amp; Managing Director-</p>	

*Homegoing Service  
Celebrating the Life  
of*

DR. JOE ELDON KELLY



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023  
2:00 P.M.

ROUND TOP BAPTIST CHURCH  
120 ROUND TOP COURT  
BLYTHEWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND FLEMING MCCLINTON  
-PASTOR-

# Obituary

Dr. Joe Eldon Kelly was born February 18, 1939, as the eighth child of Jessie Bell (Durham) Kelly and Mood Kelly, Sr., in Blythewood, SC. He departed this life after a brief illness on February 1, 2023. He was predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Clark, Mood Jr., Dolphas, and Harvey; his sisters, Ollie Armstrong, Kathleen Phillips, and Esther Williams; and his niece, Jeannette Jones, whom he regarded like a sister. At an early age, he joined Round Top Baptist Church, and later became a Deacon under Reverend Jerry M. Hollis.

He was educated in the public school system of Richland County School District Two, graduating from Bethel High School. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Science from Benedict College. He also earned his Master's Degree in Education from Duke University. Later, he completed his Doctorate in Education from South Carolina State University.

Joe worked in education all of his life. He started as a science teacher in Richland County School District Two, and would rise in administration to Assistant Principal at Spring Valley High School. He later worked in Adult Education in Richland County School District Two.

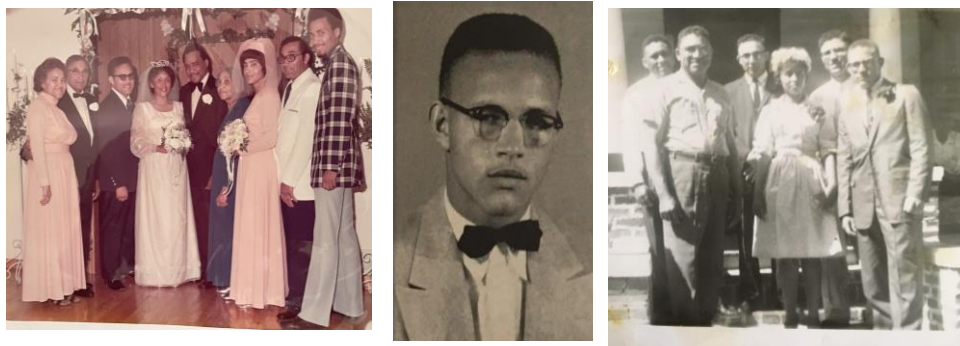
Joe retired from the South Carolina Education System after 32 years of service. Even after retirement, his calling remained helping to educate the next generation. He moved to Georgia and continued teaching in the Georgia public system for another 20 years.

Joe remained involved in several civic and community associations. He was a lifelong NEA, SCASA, and NAACP member. His passion was to see young people, especially African Americans, reach their maximum potential in education. He was also actively involved in the Bethel-Hanberry Alumni Association and the Benedict Alumni Association.

Outside of work, the activities he enjoyed over the years included coaching the Bethel High School Football team and The Blythewood Community baseball team, where he formed lasting relationships with the young men he coached. He was also an avid sports fan, enjoying all sports, especially baseball.

He leaves to cherish his memory: Martha Weeks Kelly; his children, Vincent (Rene) Kelly, Veronica (Keith) Glanton, Vanessa (Michael) Wideman, and Joe Jr.; his grandchildren, Vincent (Priscila) Bates, Jessica (Tremayne) Ottley, Valeria Glanton, Rachel Glanton, Chase Kelly, Devlin Wideman, Kelly Wideman, and Kelby Wideman; one great-grandchild Eve Ottley; two sisters-in-law Louise Kelly and Claudia Kelly; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

# Memories



# A Service of Remembrance

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Musical Selection.....“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”
- Scripture Readings.....Reverend Larry Nichols
  - Old Testament - Psalm 103:1-18
  - New Testament - Corinthians 5:1-10
- Prayer.....Pulpit
- Musical Selection.....Jubilee Choir
  - “What Are They Doing Up In Heaven”
- Remarks.....Deacon Johnnie Waller
  - Reverend Bobby Cunningham
  - Mr. Larry Griffin
- Family Tribute.....Devlin, Kelly, and Kelby Wideman
- Violin Solo.....Ms. Christi Lewis
  - Accompanied by: Ms. Mazie Lewis
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Fleming O. McClinton
- Recessional
- Postlude



## Committal, Benediction, and Interment

**Round Top Baptist Church Cemetery**  
**120 Round Top Court**  
**Blythewood, South Carolina**