



## James R. Keys

September 8, 1924 - March 11, 2017

James (Jim) Russell Keys of Union City, age 92, passed into the presence of his Lord late on March 10th, 2017. He was born in Withee, Clark Co, Wisconsin to Everel E. Keys and Ruth N. (Siggelkow) Keys on September 8th 1924. They later lived in Richland Center, Wisconsin, and then in Harvey, IL.

During WW2, he served in the US Army from April 15th 1943 to February 9th 1946. He was under the command of General MacArthur serving as a medical technician with the 96th Battalion on Leyte Island (in the Philippines) and on Okinawa (Japan). He was awarded a Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Pacific Theater Ribbon with 2 bronze battle stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 2 bronze stars, 3 overseas service bars, a good conduct medal, and a meritorious unit award.

He graduated from Greenville College with a Bachelor of Science “with honors” in May of 1948.

Jim married Lola Francis Kenworthy in Detroit, Michigan on June 20th 1952. They celebrated 62 anniversaries together before she passed away on March 5th 2015. Together they fostered numerous children, adopted one child, and then had three more children together. Jim was a devoted husband, a committed father, and an involved layman of the Free Methodist Church where he was a member; he served his local church, conference and national church in many capacities, including board member, song leader, SS teacher,

CYC youth leader and treasurer.

For most of his life, Jim worked as a chemist for PPG industries where the specialty paint patents he created contributed to mirrors enjoyed by many. In 1960, he accepted a job transfer from Detroit to East Point, GA. He and his wife lived on the south side of Atlanta, in Fayette County, and in Jonesboro. In 2006, they moved to Christian City where he resided at Sparks Inn where he has become known as “the harmonica man” and a leader of the weekly hymn sing. In his last week, he was treated for pneumonia at the Piedmont Fayette Hospital where family and friends visited him.

He was preceded into eternity by his brother Charles, his sister Ruth Esther, and his wife Lola. He is survived by his children, Kenneth C. Keys, Sr. and his wife Micki of Lawrenceville; David L. Keys and his wife Denise of Prairie City, IA; Marilyn R. Sigala and her husband Uriel of Los Angeles, CA; Della Ashley and her husband Wilford of Jonesboro; grandchildren, Kenneth (Casey); Stephanie; Jessica; Virginia; Stephen; Yehoshua; Chava; Katriel; Moshe-Simcha; Nessia; Heidi; Garrett; Audrey and 4 great grandchildren, plus one on the way.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 11 o'clock at Christian City 'Welcome Center' with Rev. Paul Schantz and Chaplain Carl Ryden officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to service time at the same location. A brief graveside service will follow at Forest Hills Memorial Gardens.

Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory. 770-964-4800

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hills Memorial Gardens

722 Conley Road  
Forest Park, GA 30297

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Christian City Chapel  
7300 Lester Rd.  
Union City, GA 30291

## Funeral Service

MAR 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christian City Chapel  
7300 Lester Rd.  
Union City, GA 30291

# Tribute Wall



“ *Parrott Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James R. Keys*



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**Parrott Funeral Home** - March 13, 2017 at 11:11 AM

DA

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Della Ashley** - March 28, 2017 at 10:31 PM

DA

*Thanks for the kind comments, they are appreciated by the family.*

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**Della Ashley** - March 28, 2017 at 10:33 PM

HS

“ We are sending our deepest sympathy to your family.

*I ( Sondra) started work at PPG, East Point in 1968. Mr. Keys was a very intellegent and nice man.*

*We pray that "our GOD" will afford all of you comfort, strength and sweet peace today and in the days and nights that follow.*

*PHILIPPIANS 4:13*

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**Henry and Sondria (Ford) Soward** - March 16, 2017 at 06:14 AM

PK

“ While our main contact with James and lola was when we visited the Atlanta Free Methodist Church when Mary's father preached there, we always saw them serving in some way in the church. They were servants of the Lord, ready to help as needed. We did not know James well, but we have memories and images of them in the church. He served his Lord faithfully.

*Paul and Mary (Vimont) Kubricht*

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**Paul and Mary (Vimont) Kubricht** - March 15, 2017 at 08:11 PM

BK

“ My sincere condolences to the family on the passing of your father. I remember him well from the First Free Methodist church on Boulevard in Atlanta. He taught some of my Sunday school classes and always remember him and his family fondly. Once again, my condolences, I wish I had received the news sooner so I could have paid my respects.

*Brian Kelch*

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**Brian Kelch** - March 15, 2017 at 12:45 PM

SR

“ Many wonderful memories of Mr Keys {as he was known by me in my youth} at the Free Methodist Church of Atlanta. It is hard to realize that I've known him and family for over 50 years. I remember bringing my dad to Jim's and Lola's 50th wedding anniversary. He will be missed, but knowing he is with the Lord brings joy even at this time of sorrow.

*Sandra Kelch Robinson*

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**Sandra Kelch Robinson** - March 14, 2017 at 04:01 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of James R. Keys.



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March 13, 2017 at 04:41 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James R. Keys.



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March 13, 2017 at 04:12 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of James R. Keys.



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March 13, 2017 at 03:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James R. Keys.



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March 13, 2017 at 02:47 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of James R. Keys.



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March 13, 2017 at 02:38 PM



“ *53 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Parrott Funeral Home** - March 13, 2017 at 10:59 AM