



Mr. Keith "KJ" Edward Donnell Jr.

November 29, 1976 - February 7, 2023

Mr. Keith "KJ" Edward Donnell, Jr., of Peoria, IL was born to Keith Edward Donnell, Sr. and Yvonne Wickham on November 29, 1976 in Peoria, IL. On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Keith transitioned from his earthly life.

Keith attended Susquehanna Township High School in Harrisburg, PA. He studied under the Nation of Islam for over 20 years. Keith enjoyed receiving knowledge and learning about religious teachings. Keith was a gifted and talented writer and rap artist. He was the creator of two albums that he cherished, 'Rhyme for Thought' and 'Industrialized Bars'. Keith developed and honed his talent for writing at an early age.

Keith loved his family dearly. He loved spending time with his son and family. Keith had a sharp wit and special gift for finding humor in most things. He used this talent to keep his family members smiling and laughing. Keith always let everyone know that he was the BIG brother. He wanted and received his respect.

Keith is survived by one son, Keith Edward Donnell, III of Peoria, IL, his parents Yvonne (Nathaniel) Wickham of Dunlap, IL and Keith (Vicki) Donnell, Sr. of Rockford, IL. Keith has seven siblings, Kendra Donnell of Peoria, IL, Chris "Galore" (Jocelyn) Donnell of Peoria, IL. Kara (Leroy) Wright of West Point, GA, Nathaniel "Wise" Wickham, V and Nathan Wickham, V, both of

Peoria, IL, Jayson Donnell of Plainfield, IL and Kayla Donnell of Rockford, IL and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Keith is preceded in death by his grandparents, John and Molly Hosea and Curtis and Marie Donnell, along with two special cousins Brian Qualls and John Hosea, III.

In his too short time on this earth, Keith wrote many notable raps and lyrics. In his song, 'The Boy Is Here' his passion of being a rap performer was on display to all that listened. One of the passages in the song said: "Peep the game, rap the game, expressing my thoughts, incredible just like the Hulk, every time that God talks... Yo, the rap icon is here!" The Lord has spoken once more, and the rap icon will now perform in a more heavenly place.

He will be dearly missed by all who loved him here on earth.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Simons Mortuary with a visitation one hour prior beginning at 9 am. Vice Chief Bishop Leroy Smith, Jr. and Imam Dr. Bashir Ali will officiate. Keith will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](https://www.SimonsMortuary.com).

The service will be live streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-232095303487150> promptly AT THE TIME OF THE SERVICE (Central Time).

Due to Covid-19, social distancing is encouraged to be consistent with recommendations from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), funeral home directors have been instructed and should follow CDC

guidelines on gatherings, including those directly related to funerals, visitations, or graveside services.

*In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them).

*It is our responsibility as Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Cemetery Details

Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Celebration of Life

FEB 18. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Keith "KJ" Edward Donnell Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - February 21, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Keith "KJ" Edward Donnell Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - February 17, 2023 at 10:44 AM



“ *Condolences to the family! Hadn't seen Keith in over 25 years! He was a good dude. Kendra peace be on to you old friend.*

E. Hughes - February 23, 2023 at 06:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Burial at Lutheran Cemetery*



Simons Mortuary - February 21, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. Keith "KJ" Edward Donnell Jr..



February 17, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ *Jill Neal lit a candle in memory of Keith Donnell*



Jill Neal - February 13, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ *Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Keith Donnell*



Kathy Collins - February 13, 2023 at 01:20 AM

RW

“ Father God, cover Noogie, Nathaniel, Keith, siblings and grandchildren with your great wings of Love. Give their hearts rest and there mine sound sleep. Lord, lift there eyes so that they may catch a glimpse of eternity and be comforted by the promises of heaven . We ask this in the precious name of Jesus Amen.
Love Cousin Rich and Theresa



Richard and Theresa Walker - February 10, 2023 at 10:40 PM

GH

“ Gloria Harrington lit a candle in memory of Keith Donnell



Gloria Harrington - February 10, 2023 at 06:24 PM

MR

“ Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of Keith Donnell



Mattie Risby - February 09, 2023 at 02:14 PM

AI

“ ANNETTE IRBY lit a candle in memory of Keith Donnell



ANNETTE IRBY - February 09, 2023 at 01:45 PM

AB

“ Angie Brophy lit a candle in memory of Keith Donnell



Angie Brophy - February 09, 2023 at 01:32 PM

MW

“ Praying the God of all comfort, comfort you.
Ms Patricia Ward



Ms Patricia Ward - February 09, 2023 at 01:35 AM

WL

“ ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER ALREADY. AND NOT ONLY KEITH, WHO WAS ONE OF THE NICEST, KINDEST PEACEFUL MAN. MY HEART GOES OUT TO ALL OF MY COUSINS. THE DONNELLS, SCORDO-WARD, PORCH, COSTIC, WICKHAMS AND HOSEA'S. OUR FAMILY HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF HOMEGOINGS. KJ GONE TO SOON, R.I.P

WESLEY AND KAREN LEE - February 08, 2023 at 11:45 PM

MW

Our prayers and condolences family during your time of bereavement may God comfort you all .

Micheal Williams - February 09, 2023 at 01:15 PM

MC

🙏 On behalf of the "EMMA/WALLACE JOHNSON FAMILY REUNION COMMITTEE, we extend our most sincere condolences to our FAMILY MEMBERS.....Please be assured that we are here to help you all in any way we possibly can to help you endure this sad day. Please remember that GOD has promised to NEVER leave us nor FORSAKE us . so we ENCOURAGE you all to "BE STRONG IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT".

Ministers Robert/Irma Costic - February 15, 2023 at 12:52 AM

SB

We are so sorry for the loss of KJ. You all are in our prayers. We are so sad for you. Love, Scott Wheeler & Susie Brown

Susan Brown - February 17, 2023 at 03:58 PM

DP

“ Sincere sympathy!!

Darryl Pegues - February 07, 2023 at 08:25 PM

YW

Thank u my friend he was my first born 🙏

yvonne wickham - February 11, 2023 at 08:02 AM