



## Leonard Matthew Keele

January 23, 1934 - April 17, 2015

In the early morning quietness, 5:00 AM, of April 17, 2015 Leonard Matthew Keele made his transition from earth among us to his heavenly abode to be with his Divine Family. He joined his parents, Alonza and Henrietta Keel, his brother James, and his sister Daphne. He leaves one brother, Jasper (Mamie) of Everetts, NC and one sister, Eva J. Williams, of NY. Among others left to cherish his precious memory are his devoted wife of 55 years and 11 months, Susie Smith Keele; one daughter, Monica Keele Jones (Lamonte) of Raleigh, NC; two grandchildren, Victoria Monique Jones of Pennsylvania and Victor Cameron Jones of Greensboro, NC; two sisters-in-law, Eva D. Smith and Betty Smith of Chicago; a special devoted niece, Barbara Williams of Chesapeake; some very special "help where/when needed" friends: Terri Walker, and Betty Stallings who visited him regularly and assisted with care giving and feeding when he became unable to do so; Otha Collins and son-in-law Lamonte who kept him shaved and hair cut and Larry Darden who was Susie and Leonard's guardian angel throughout his later years, and facility and hospital confinements. Other loved ones include several nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of friends who visited him regularly. They never allowed him to become lonely or feel lonely. His Facility Room walls were filled with an assortment of greeting cards for every occasion and many "just thinking of you" cards.

God blessed Leonard with the opportunity to serve as Daddy, god parent and

Grand Daddy to the following and their offspring: Alisa Diane Porter of Chicago, Marlo Taylor and Allen Porter of Chicago; Brittney Porter of Indiana, Marian and Asia Porter of Jackson, TN.; Denise Carrington Falls (Anthony) of Spring Field, VA, Ronald Carrington (Dee) of Manassas, VA, Dolores Carrington Hill (Jerry) of North Chesterfield, VA, Linda and Norma Carrington of Chesapeake, Synora Holley Coe (Jerome) of Manor, TX and Crissy Holly of Portsmouth. These were truly “dear to his heart” whom he loved, nurtured, and disciplined - often too much to their liking, but he was always full of instructions for their betterment and development. Giving children instructions was Leonard’s passion. No one brought a child into his presence who did not get a lecture of love and direction.

Leonard’s educational journey began in Everetts, NC. Upon graduating from High School he earned an Associate Degree in Electronics from North Carolina A&T State University, did a military stint in Korea, earned a BS Degree from Hampton University in Industrial Arts and a MS Degree from Virginia State University.

Leonard’s career included being an Industrial Arts instructor in the Portsmouth Public School System’s Middle and High Schools and Waverly, VA High School. He retired after 18 years as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds at Norfolk State University.

His work experiences equipped him for numerous opportunities to volunteer and perform helpful deeds for his family, church, and community. His home has special “Keele touches” which include a workshop, additional cabinets, shelves, picture frames, plant stands, shoe racks, bowls, lamps and anything he imagined a home or yard needed. Leonard and Otha took their talents to North Carolina to build Victoria and Victor a tree house equipped with electricity, ceiling fan and all the niceties one can find in a home. He was always providing supplies and building things needed to complete various

projects for Susie and organizations she was affiliated with like the Garden Club, the CHROME Club, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, school classrooms and the PTAs, his Zeta Phi Beta sisters and Phi Beta Sigma and Prince Hall Masonic brothers.

He shared his talents in church as an enthusiastic Sunday School learner, member of the property committee, and the Diaconate, as an usher, a greeter and by always sharing his wisdom with the children. An example of his carpentry skills can be seen in the church's Baptism Font which he built. Leonard lived quietly but profoundly. The impact of his life on all he met merits celebrating!

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: Portsmouth United Church of Christ c/o Roof Fund, 5900 Portsmouth Blvd., Portsmouth, VA 23701.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **24**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Service

APR **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Portsmouth United Church of Christ  
5900 Portsmouth Blvd  
Portsmouth, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ *J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Matthew Keele*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - April 24, 2015 at 03:49 PM

DH

*Beautiful tribute, Susie. I hadn't heard that your husband had passed into the next life. You have my prayers for comfort and peace in the coming days. Donna Halleck*

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**Donna Halleck** - June 12, 2015 at 11:03 PM

AN

*I'm Sorry To Beat You Up Rest In Peace*

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**Angilie** - September 04, 2020 at 12:10 PM

LJ

“ *Linda Jones lit a candle in memory of Leonard Matthew Keele*



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**Linda Jones** - April 25, 2015 at 12:23 PM

CC

“ *Mr. Leonard M. Keele, was with you as a demonstration of God's Love and Blessings. When you remember him with love, you remember God. Turn your hearts toward God who does all things well and will comfort all who mourn. May the precious memories of your loved one keep you forever on the road that leads to God?* ”

Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church - April 24, 2015 at 02:53 PM

AM

“ *Allen McFarland lit a candle in memory of Leonard Matthew Keele* ”



Allen McFarland - April 24, 2015 at 02:48 PM

SC

“ *Synora Coe lit a candle in memory of Leonard Matthew Keele* ”



Synora Coe - April 23, 2015 at 04:26 PM

SC

*To my dear Aunt Susie. I am praying for you during this time. I have had the best memories of Uncle Leonard. I will forever cherish his long talks, firm persuasive decisions and his kind way of debating his point. I love you and I will see you soon.*

*Love,  
Synora, Jerome and Aaron*

Synora Coe - April 23, 2015 at 04:31 PM

 Phyllis Cowley

“ *My sincere condolences on the loss of your husband. You are such a devoted wife. May your faith and memories bring you comfort.*

*Phyllis Cowley (Phyllis 2)*

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**Phyllis Cowley** - April 23, 2015 at 02:14 PM

EB

“ *Etta Whitehurst, Frank, Rene Michael Bla lit a candle in memory of Leonard Matthew Keele*



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**Etta Whitehurst, Frank, Rene Michael Bla** - April 22, 2015 at 05:43 PM

EB

*Aunt Susie and Family: God has a new angel and we will see him again if we have faith and believe. Uncle Leonard had the most precious smile and demeanor we will always remember. Embrace the fond memories and diminish the pain of loss. Our prayers are with you and our love too.*

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**Etta Whitehurst, Frank, Rene Michael Bla** - April 22, 2015 at 05:45 PM

NW

“ *Mr. Leonard was active in his church, his family an the fight for social and racial justice. With all that he was a true gentleman. Our loved ones remain alive as long as there's someone who remembers them. And, Susie, our thoughts and prayers remain with you and your family.*

*Nancy & Tommy Westbrook*

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**Nancy Westbrook** - April 20, 2015 at 08:26 PM



“ 31 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - April 20, 2015 at 03:54 PM



“ *A fine gentle person.  
He was much loved,  
and will be greatly missed.  
Edna Harget*

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**Edna Harget** - April 20, 2015 at 07:50 AM



“ *So sad to learn of Leonard's passing; our faith reminds us to seek comfort in knowing that Leonard is walking those streets of gold and meeting with old friends and family that passed before him, and we will see him again. Susie, we will keep you and your family in our Thoughts and Prayers!*

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**James Craft** - April 20, 2015 at 06:29 AM