

Willie John Kelly
1324 NE Ainsworth St.
Portland, Oregon 97211

Willie John Kelly known by family and friends as “Johnny” was the third son born out of the union of Charlie D. Kelly and Christeen Walton. Born in Linden, Texas (Cass County) June 23rd. 1935. Attended Fairview Junior High School at the ages 6 thru 10. Moved to Portland, Oregon in 1945 with his family who were seeking better economic opportunities

Attended Vanport Elementary School, then Roosevelt High School just short of graduation because of the need to work to help support his family. He enjoyed spending time with his friends and family, participating in a variety of social activities. He played basketball, baseball, football, and enjoyed fishing and dancing.

Entered the Air Force in 1954, and went to basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. After completing basic training he went to Westover Air Force Base in Springfield, Massachusetts. While serving in the military he worked in the transportation department shipping cargo, soldiers nationally and over seas.

Discharged from the service in 1957, he moved back home to Portland, Oregon where he attended Barber College and received a licensed certificate. Moved to Philadelphia, PA and reunited with his girlfriend (Pauline Lloyd) who later became his wife on May 6th, 1961. After the birth of their first child Fara Kelly in 1964 they moved back to Portland, OR where they would join his three other children (Tammera Johnson, Jenean Dunn, and Derrick Kelly), then gave birth to two sons (Byron Kelly and Paul Kelly).

After owning his own barbershop for 15years, he earned his High School Diploma and College Degree while working and supporting his family. He would go on to work 21years for the City of Portland TRI-MET as a bus operator.

After he retired in 1997 he went on to volunteer as a drug/alcohol counselor, organize his own band, play the guitar (sing the blues), excel as an instructor and low handicap amateur golfer, spend quality time with family camping and fishing, a marriage counselor, a gardener, and a proud grandfather.

Spent a great portion of his life supporting his family throughout their recreational and professional activities. He takes great pride in the fact that he stressed education and that his children went on to earn college degrees. He is a man of faith and has spent countless hours debating religion and politics.