



Kenneth Lafranzo Rhodes II

October 6, 1993 - November 19, 2022

Kenneth Lafranzo Rhodes II, 29 and affectionately known as KJ, was born on October 6, 1993, in Muncie, IN but was raised and remained in Louisville, KY. The brief words conveyed in these few paragraphs cannot adequately express the impact KJ had on all who were blessed to have him in their lives. He was known for his humor and his infectious and colossal smile, which was the greatest expression of the light within him that he so generously poured into others. His mother affectionately referred to him as her “sonshine”; in reality, he was everyone’s “sonshine”.

KJ passed away on November 19, 2022, succumbing to injuries sustained in a tragic car accident that also took the life of his baby brother, Jalen Isaiah Davis-Rhodes. While we are devastated and heartbroken at the loss of our loved one, we take solace in knowing that he is with his brother in glory, as KJ was his fiercest protector and greatest mentor and guide. And while we deeply wish his time on earth had been longer, we also take comfort in knowing that he held faith in God, having been baptized along with Jalen and their sister, Brenlie Elaine Rhodes, at the age of 20 and becoming a member of Fifth Street Baptist Church.

After graduating from Louisville Male High School in 2012, KJ briefly attended Western Kentucky University before embarking on his career journey. He spent several years, beginning at a very early age, working alongside his

uncle, Carlton Swafford, supporting him in his lawncare business. In 2018, KJ was selected to participate in the THRIVE Fellowship aimed at cultivating community leadership and civic engagement in young Black males.

To say this fellowship charted his course would be an understatement. THRIVE greatly helped further illuminate KJ's purpose, with him moving on from the fellowship and stepping in to support the work of Cities United. The huge outpouring from the community upon his unexpected passing is a testament to the impact he made despite the sadness we all feel in his candle being dimmed and the anticipation we all held at what his efforts were to become. However, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all he touched and the continuing work in community. Well done, KJ, well done!

KJ was preceded in death again by his brother – Jalen Isaiah Davis Rhodes, grandparents – James Rhodes, Jr., William Swafford, Sr., and Brenda Swafford, and uncle – Rojah Rhodes. Those left to cherish his precious memories include: his mother – Adria Johnson, his father – Kenneth Rhodes, his sister – Brenlie Rhodes, his god sister and her mother – Kamea McClendon and Kelly Davis, his grandmother – Willie Rhodes, his nephew – Kyeus Stark, his niece – Amerie Stark, his uncles – James Rhodes III (Kym), Derrick Rhodes, Carlton Swafford (Kate), and William Swafford, Jr., his aunt – Traci Parker, a host of cousins, extended family, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial scholarship fund has been established to honor KJ's legacy -

The K.E.N. Fund, <http://www.metro united way.org/ken/>

Visitation will be Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 from 9am - 10:30am at St. Stephen Church, 1018 S. 15th St., with the funeral to follow at 10:30am. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

1600 Newburg Rd
Louisville, KY 40204

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 3. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Stephen Church
1018 S 15th St
Louisville, ky 40210
(502) 583-6798

Celebration of Life

DEC 3. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Stephen Church
1018 S 15th St
Louisville, ky 40210
(502) 583-6798

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Kenneth Lafranzo Rhodes II*.



December 02, 2022 at 10:53 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Kenneth Lafranzo Rhodes II*.



November 30, 2022 at 11:39 PM



“ *Kenneth, you were so kind, responsive and meant so much to your community. I'm sorry for the tragedy of your loss. May those that loved you keep your memory alive and their hearts open. May you rest in peace.* 🕊️ *Irini*



Irini Neofotistos - November 29, 2022 at 09:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Kenneth Lafranzo Rhodes II*.



November 29, 2022 at 12:54 PM