



Mr. Ivan Keith Owens

March 9, 1956 - November 7, 2017

Ivan Keith Owens was born on March 9, 1956 in Durham, North Carolina. He was the son of the late Mr. Lewis Nathaniel Owens and Lottie Mitchell Owens. On Tuesday, November 7th at 5:45am, Ivan peacefully departed this life bound for his heavenly home. Ivan was educated in Durham Public Schools and graduated from Durham High School in 1973. Ivan was a stellar student and his scholastic achievements granted him a partial scholarship to Howard University.

He was also a member of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church since the age of 5. He continued to be an engaged and active member throughout his life. He was a member of the Trustee Board for more than 25 years where he served in many ways including Chair. In 2014 he received a plaque for outstanding service to the Trustee Board. He was also the founder and served as President of Mt. Gilead Inc which is a nonprofit organization. He was passionate about servicing the community and led the church's efforts to purchase property in the community and work toward positive development of the surrounding area. He also loved to sing and was a member of the Young Adult Choir and then the Inspirational Voices. The choir and the church loved to hear him sing his favorite song "I don't feel no ways tired" which exemplified his belief and faith in God throughout his life despite his health challenges.

Ivan was a proud graduate of the prestigious Howard University where he

received his Bachelor's of Arts in political science and minored in Business in 1977. Ivan's traveling endeavors started very early. While at Howard he interned at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration during the summer of 1976 in Islas Cisnes, Honduras. One of his most memorable experiences at Howard was his initiation into Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, Xi Chapter in 1975. Ivan's love for Howard was evident from his involvement post-graduation. He was a dedicated member of the Howard University Alumni Club of the Research Triangle and he would frequently be found on the yard at Howard Homecoming. He returned to Durham and his continued pursuit of academic excellence led him to North Carolina Central University, School of Law where he was a member of Phi Alpha Delta, Incorporated and President of 1980 Law Week. He received his JD in 1983.

Along with Mt. Gilead Baptist Church and Howard University....Kappa Alpha Psi was dear to his heart. He was a lifetime member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. He was recognized for his commitment and service and receive an award in recognition of his dedication and continued support as a Krimson Kontributor of the Kappas of Durham Foundation, Inc.

Community Center for the Kappas of Durham Foundation, Inc.

Ivan is survived by his lifelong partner and best friend, Joyce Smith. His only brother Lewis Owens, Jr and sister in law, Pamela Owens; Nieces and Nephews Lamonte Garrett (Robin), Tia Lance, Ashley Johnson, Tiffany Owens, Taylor Owens, Lance Garrett, Reese Garrett, Alexius Johnson, and Kennedy Stewart; One Godson Carl (CJ) Paschal Jr. and many other family members, fraternity brothers, and friends. We will forever celebrate the fullness of his life.

Funeral service will take place on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, beginning at 1:00 p.m. A visitation with family and friends will be held one hour prior to the service.

Cemetery Details

Glennview Memorial Park

NC Hwy 55
Durham, NC 27713
(919) 596-8102

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **12.** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church
404 Dowd St
27701
Durham, NC
<http://www.mtgileadbaptist.org/>

Service

NOV **12.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church
404 Dowd St
27701
Durham, NC
<http://www.mtgileadbaptist.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Ivan Keith Owens*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *My thoughts are with you and the family and how painful it is to lose your loved one. Please accept my deepest sympathy. May God's love and comfort be with you and the family.*

“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone that beholds the Son and exercises faith in him should have everlasting life, and I will resurrect him at the last day.” John 6:40

Dolon Peete - December 14, 2017 at 02:20 PM



“ *Joyce,
We are so sorry for your loss. Ivan was a very special man and he will be sorely missed. Please know that you and the family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Love to you,
Sandy & Dave Thurmond*

Sandy & Dave Thurmond - November 12, 2017 at 11:05 PM



“ *Lorraine McLary & family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ivan Owens.*



Sue Bell - November 12, 2017 at 08:52 AM

TY

“ *Tricia Yelverton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ivan Keith Owens*



Tricia Yelverton - November 11, 2017 at 02:33 PM

BT

“ *I am still in shock, losing a dear friend and brother in Christ. We battle through a lot of illness together. He will truly be missed and loved. Barbara Tate and family*

barbara tate - November 10, 2017 at 05:18 PM

CM

“ *Joyce my prayers are with you and the family.*

Cassandra Madden

Cassandra Madden - November 10, 2017 at 03:42 PM

EB

“ *Ed & Dora Bailey purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Ivan Keith Owens.*



Ed & Dora Bailey - November 10, 2017 at 01:42 PM

DJ

“ I am so saddened to learn of the loss of Ivan. We were classmates at DHS Class of 1973. He was always a very kind & friendly person to all. I'll always remember his smile! My deepest sympathy to his family. I know he will be deeply missed on earth but take comfort he is with our Lord & Savior. Rest well Ivan

Debbie Daniel Jones - November 10, 2017 at 07:58 AM

KC

Ivan, your dedication and the love you showed will always be remembered.

Karen Cates - November 10, 2017 at 10:32 AM

JB

I met Ivan back in the 80's at the Lakewood YMCA! He was always saying hello, smiling, and laughing. After his work out Ivan would always stop by the fitness desk and chat with me and Doretha. Fun days! Joyce, I know that you will miss Ivan but there is consolation in the fact that he felt very loved by you! I hope to talk to you soon. Jannie Baughman

Jannie Baughman - November 15, 2017 at 02:15 PM

JA

“ The Cross Family

You all have our deepest sympathy in the passing of Ivan. Our prayers and thoughts are we you in this time. May God bless.



Jackie - November 10, 2017 at 01:01 AM

TF

“ *I don't feel no ways tired is a song that we enjoyed hearing Ivan sing...on Mens Day it was our pleasure for all the male chorus to sing this song and back Ivan up. What a melody for you to sing in heaven.*

Rest In Peace Brother Rest In Peace!

The Fitts Family - November 09, 2017 at 07:45 PM

TY

*Joyce,
Praying for you and the family that God will give you added strength in your time of sorrow. Ivan and my late husband(Lane) was the very best of friends.*

Tricia Yelverton

Tricia Yelverton - November 11, 2017 at 02:41 PM

MW

Please accept my prayers & condolences to the family!!

Marilyn A. Womble - November 11, 2017 at 11:45 PM

TF

“ *The Fitts Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ivan Keith Owens*



The Fitts Family - November 09, 2017 at 07:38 PM

CB

“ *I was sadden to hear about the passing of my Durham High School classmate, Ivan Owens. My sincere condolences to the family.*

*Charles E. Bright
Durham High School Class of 1973
Washington, D.C.*

Charles Bright - November 09, 2017 at 05:43 PM