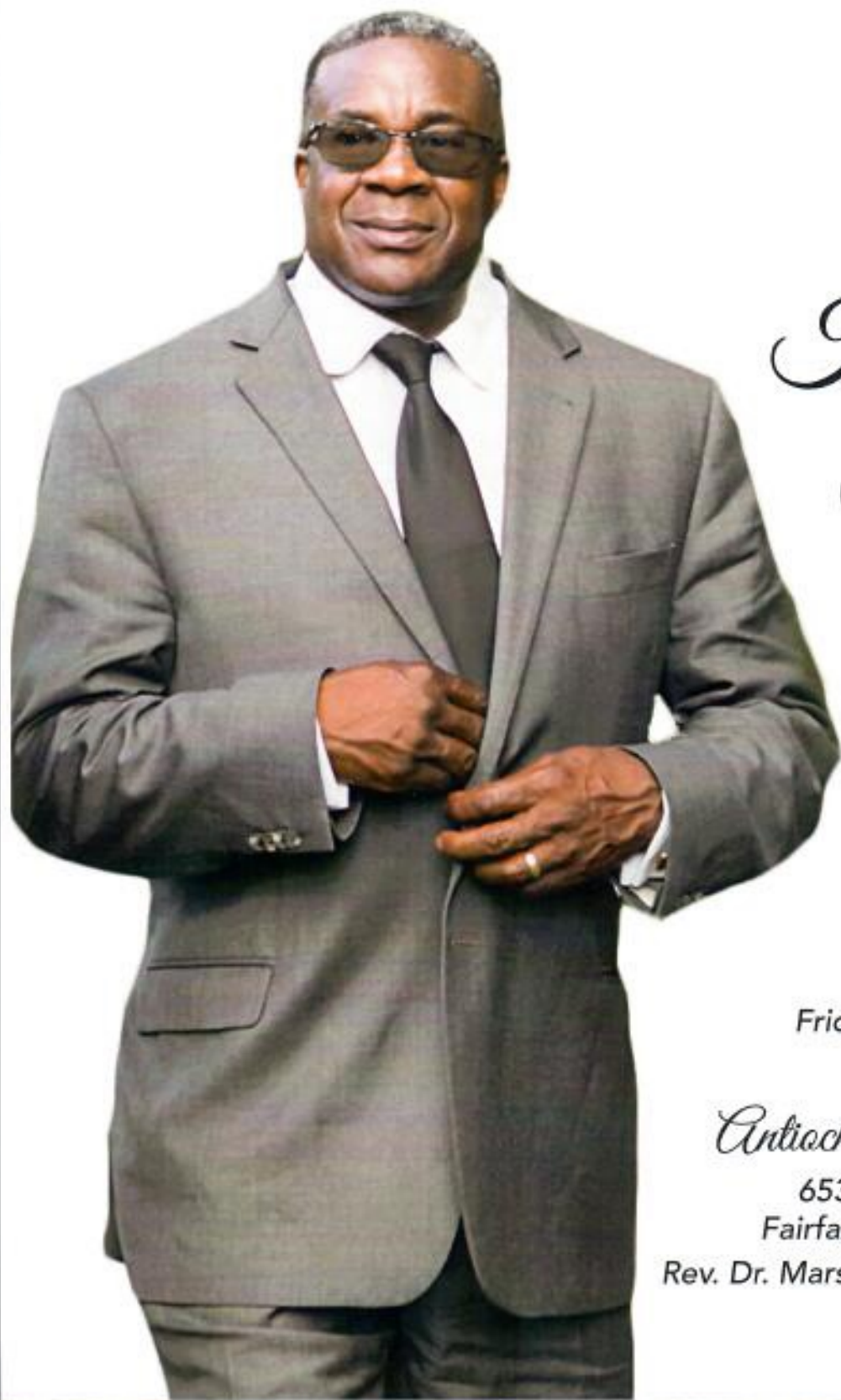


A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



*Keith L.
Hill*

Service

Friday, July 17, 2020
11:00 a.m.

Antioch Baptist Church

6531 Little Ox Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry, Sr., Pastor

Obituary

Keith L. Hill was born February 18, 1963, in Nashville, Tenn. He was the eldest of two children born to Helen A. Hill and the late Robert Thomas Hill.

Keith was a man who lived life with a joy that was undiluted and infectious. Whether it was an experience involving his beloved family, friends, his profession, or plain old fun, Keith enthusiastically embraced it all. He was a talker who loved nothing better than a good conversation and the opportunity to connect deeply and completely with another person. The sound of his frequent and loud laughter will always be remembered and will be forever missed by all who knew him.

As a youngster, Keith was a two-sport fanatic who was a star player of baseball and football. He was also a hard-working, disciplined, and self-motivated student. When the honor roll came out, Keith's name was always on it. The consistently high quality of his work was noticed by a middle school teacher, Mrs. Roland. She urged Keith's parents to allow him to apply to the prestigious Amherst Regional High School in Massachusetts through A Better Chance (ABC)—a national, residential program that prepares students of color for leadership rolls. Keith excelled during the organization's rigorous application process, and throughout his life credited his personal and professional success to participation in the ABC program.

Following his 1981 graduation from Amherst, Keith attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and a minor in sociology. At UVA, Keith developed rich friendships that remained intact until the end of his life. In 1984, he met fellow UVA student Linda Harris who first became his friend and on October 16, 1993, became his wife.

The couple welcomed their son Morgan on July 31, 1994. On May 30, 1998, their daughter McKenzie was born. Linda and Keith freely poured themselves into both children, raising them to be strong, confident, and happy.

Keith's love for Morgan and McKenzie was deep, and he conveyed his love to them through hugs that were firm and frequent. Keith's top priority was working to fulfill his children's needs. "Be better than me" he would say. With great intention, Keith instilled within them important values like always doing their best, not quitting, and shunning the words "I can't." Rather, Keith often told his children this: "When you think about saying 'I can't,' say 'I can,' and see what that looks like for you."

The admonitions Keith shared with his children were rooted in his own strong work ethic. At the time of his passing, Keith was the senior federal account manager with Poly, Inc., where he oversaw the Department of Defense customer account. It was work Keith loved. He was intrigued by the opportunity to learn about new products, and the members of his team were also his friends. A natural salesman, Keith's favorite part of his job was engaging with customers and partners to provide them with solutions that would improve their organizations' missions.

Blessed with a generous heart, Keith enjoyed helping other people, listening to music and playing dominoes and cards. Most of all, he enjoyed being outdoors, and appreciated nearly every outdoor activity. Keith liked to work in the yard, walk, cook on the grill, feed the birds, ride bicycles, and played several outdoor sports, including golf. Keith also loved anything to do with water—from sitting near it, to swimming, boating, or just playing.

It was Linda who planted the seed for Keith's appreciation for golf when she took him to a Nashville driving range and taught him how to swing clubs. Keith had a natural affinity for eye-hand coordination, and he smacked the ball 200 yards the first time he swung his woods.

Keith also introduced Linda to many activities that were "firsts" for her—too many to recall. These included canoeing, racquetball, and helping Keith to develop black and white photos at his college summer job. Linda's first airplane trip followed an 18-hour bus ride with Keith from Virginia to Nashville to meet his parents. Linda was nervous when the time came for her to return to Virginia by airplane alone. Keith gave her a hug, a kiss and a smile. He told her the flight would be exciting and she would be fine. That was Keith: adventurous, encouraging, and willing to think beyond the ordinary. Along with the ability to make her laugh, they are qualities that for nearly three decades Linda would love most about Keith.

When he wasn't connecting with people, Keith enjoyed connecting with animals—a trait that began in childhood. He was often the first student to volunteer when the classroom pet needed weekend lodging. Whether a lizard, hamster, snake, or bird, Keith welcomed them all, including a gerbil that escaped his cage and took a tour of the Hill's home. But it was his canine friend Ace, whom Keith rescued in 2012 from a shelter in Texas, who was always by Keith's side.

The Hill family joined Antioch Baptist Church in 2007. Keith liked the fellowship of Sunday services and enjoyed participating in the annual Global 6K for Clean Water to improve the lives of those who cannot access an essential commodity that many take for granted. Keith looked forward to attending the fun family event each spring. Keith participated in the Feed the Homeless ministry and attended Wednesday evening Bible study sessions.

Keith lived a vibrant life. As we honor him, may we look within ourselves for ways that we might follow the example he has left. May we be more friendly and supportive of others, quick to laugh, generous, intrigued by new experiences, driven by excellence, and forever in search of the authentic joy that lives within us all.

Keith is survived by Linda, his wife of 27 years; children, Morgan and McKenzie; mother, Helen A. Hill; sister, Tyjuana Hill-Smith (Melvin); mother-in-law, Carrie Harris; sister-in-law, Paula Harris; brothers-in-law, Stevie and David Harris; and a host of beloved aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Lovingly Submitted

The Family

Order of Service

Rev. Marshal L. Ausberry, Sr., Officiating

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Invocation

Scripture Readings.....Rev. Bernard Snowden

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 41:10

NEW TESTAMENT 1st Corinthians 13:13

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Bernard Snowden

Musical SelectionSis. Victoria Parker

"Lord You Are Good"
By Todd Galberth

Acknowledgements Sis. Maria Pernel

Reflections Please limit to 2 min

Rev. Jerome Hill, Sr.

Amos Drummond

Mike McGinn

Dave Hicks

Gary Flowers

Silent Reading of Obituary Instrumental Music

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

Musical SelectionSis. Victoria Parker

"For Every Mountain"
By Kurt Carr

Eulogy..... Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry, Sr.

Benediction

Recessional *"I'll Fly Away"*

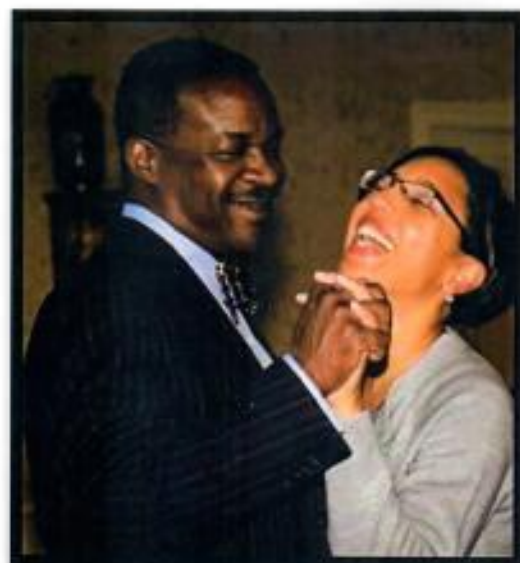
Recording by Hezekiah Walker



Dear Keith,

I am so grateful for the love we shared and the time we spent together. I have so many fond memories, and I will cherish them forever. You gave your all to me, Morgan, and McKenzie. I know that I am a better person because of your approach to life. You encouraged me to be positive, to never doubt myself, and to explore all the possibilities life has to offer. You let me know that whatever I wanted to do in life was within my reach—that as long as I had determination and desire, I could achieve it. You always wanted me to be happy and would go the extra mile or do whatever you felt was necessary to make sure my needs were met. You would do anything for me and you reminded me often how deeply you loved me. Every day I will miss your hugs, your laughter, your kisses, your playfulness, your conversations, your courage, your strength, your energy, your helpfulness, your positive outlook, your curiosity, your music, and your touch. I will miss hearing your voice. I want to hold your hand and feel your touch again and again and again. I want to feel your arms around me and hear you say "I love you, Lin." The arms of God hold you now, but I know you remain the same wonderful Keith. You simply have a new purpose. Just know that I will love and care for McKenzie and Morgan until God calls me to be with you again. Although you and I are now apart, I will never stop loving you. Always, Keith...that's how long I will love you.

Love,
Lin

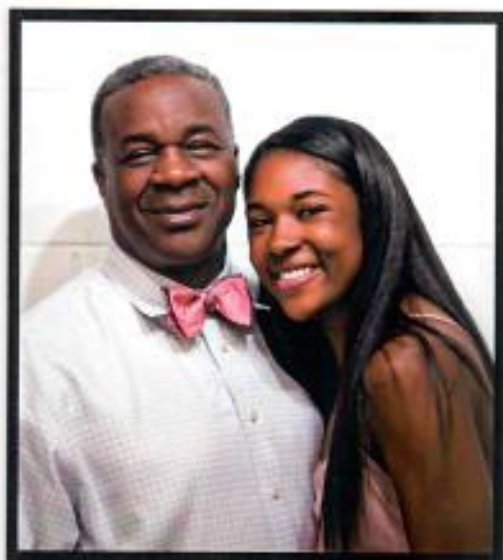


Hey Dad,

I'm struggling to write this because it doesn't feel real. You weren't supposed to leave me this soon. I would have never imagined that June 27th would be the last time I would hear your voice, that God would call you home so suddenly. There were still so many things I had to tell you and wanted to do with you. You gave me your all. You believed in me. You supported me while allowing me to make my own mistakes as I traveled the road to independence. Through all the ups and downs, you made me feel so very special. I would give anything to hear one more bad joke, listen to one more song with you, dance with you, to tell you about my day or to hear about yours. I will forever remember and appreciate you and the beautiful memories we made together.

I find myself still standing by the door just hoping you'll walk through one more time. Looking at my phone when it rings hoping it's you. No one understands the bond that we shared. If there's one thing I do know, it's that you wouldn't want me to be sad for too long. So for you I will be strong. I will continue to follow my dreams and make you proud. I hope you're living it up in Heaven. I know that we will be together again soon. I miss you more than you could ever know. I love you dad, I will forever be your little girl.

Love,
McKenzie



Pops,

Thank you for being our teacher, with lessons endless.

Thank you for being our coach, pushing us to strive for our best every day.

Thank you for being a role model, even though you wanted me to be a better version of yourself. You exemplified how to be a good man, a friend to others, a better husband, and the best father a boy could only dream of.

Thank you for being my compass, guiding me back from endless mistakes and onward to the right paths of life.

Thank you for being my best friend. We shared grand times, laughter, and tears. We spoke to one another from the heart without reserve.

Thank you for gifting me with the strength, wisdom, and love that I will continue to use throughout my life and to care for Mom and McKenzie.

I am so proud to be your son. I love you 'til my days are done.

Thank you for nicknaming me "Champ," a word that will forever remind me of your love and expectations.

Love you,

Morgan



To My Son,

I always looked forward to phone calls from you. We would always have a good laugh. Thank you for making sure I always had everything I needed and more. Thanks for being a great son. I will forever cherish our time together on Thursday, June 25. Although the pandemic has dictated that people who don't live in the same house should stay far apart, I will forever be grateful you insisted on hugging me one last time!

Love,

Mom

To My Brother,

Thank you for the many laughs and jokes, for your sternness and for your big personality. Thank you for loving and caring for Mom, for your relationship with Melvin, and for all of your support. Thank you for all the childhood memories and for always being there for Beth. Thank you for being a role model for Tre, for your protection, and for your gifts. Thank you for encouraging Nicholas, for always working to make our family close, and for reminding me of my first love, Dad. Thank you, dear brother, for simply being you.

Much love,

Tyjuana



Pallbearers

Morgan Hill
Tra Smith
Michael Russell

Dave Hicks
Michael Williams
Kirk Sykes

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgements

The Hill family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to us during this time of bereavement

May God Bless You!

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to
Amherst A Better Chance Program.

Donate via the website: <https://amherstabetterchance.org>.

**Please include in the Additional Comments section these words:

"In memoriam of Keith Hill Class of 1981"

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Ames Funeral Home

8914 Quarry Road

Manassas, VA 20110

(703) 368-2814

www.amesfh.com

There will be no interment after the service.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions there will not be a repast following the service.

Program prepared by Antioch Baptist Church, 6531 Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039