



Kenneth Randolph Barnes

June 8, 1965 - June 15, 2025

KENNETH'S LIFE STORY

Kenneth Randolph Barnes, affectionately known as “Kenny” by family and friends, was born on June 8, 1965. He peacefully entered into eternal rest on Saturday, June 15, 2025, at the age of 60.

Kenny was lovingly adopted as a child by Randolph Barnes and the late Edith Gadson Barnes and raised in Snow Hill, Maryland. From an early age, Kenny was known for his energy, speed, and charm. He spent his childhood racing bikes, foot racing, and playing games with friends. Though he wasn't the biggest kid, he earned the nickname “Quick” because of his incredible speed—a name that followed him into college.

Kenny graduated from Snow Hill High School in 1983, where he was a standout student and leader. He played football his senior year, contributing to the team's 1982 state championship win. Kenny was also the drum major for the high school band and proudly held a perfect attendance record throughout his 13 school years.

He went on to attend Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business in 1988. At Morgan State, Kenny joined Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity and became the premier drum major for

the university band. Known for his iconic drum major backbend, infectious confidence, and show-stealing charisma, Kenny became a fan favorite at performances.

Shortly after graduating, Kenny was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). Though his career was limited by the disease, he remained active and dedicated to his community. He returned to Snow Hill and held several part-time clerical positions, including at Lower Shore Enterprises, Worcester County Developmental Center, and Dove Pointe.

Despite the challenges of MS, Kenny never lost his joyful spirit or his radiant smile. Proverbs 15:13 says, “A joyful heart makes a cheerful face,” and Kenny lived this truth every day. He embraced life fully, competing in the Special Olympics in skiing and shot put, where he medaled, and inspiring others through his unshakable faith and positivity.

Kenny deepened his relationship with God through his journey. He worshiped at Mount Wesley United Methodist Church and Free Indeed Ministries, both located in Snow Hill. Though MS limited him physically, his faith and spirit grew stronger. Kenny's sharp mind and uplifting words served as a ministry to those around him. He was known for his favorite acronyms—HAH (Hallelujah Any How) and HIV (Heaven In View)—which never failed to bring smiles to those who heard them.

Kenny leaves to cherish his memory: his beloved father, Randolph Barnes; his loving sister, Martina (fiancé Thomas); two nephews, Kenneth Wharton III and Kyle Wharton; great-nephew, Amari Wharton; great-niece Keidyn Wharton and a special bonus great-nephew, Amir Levi. He is also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives, and dear friends who will forever hold him in their hearts.

SUBMITTED WITH LOVE ~ THE FAMILY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **22**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bennie Smith Life Celebration Center
901 West Isabella Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Funeral Service

JUN **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bennie Smith Life Celebration Center
901 West Isabella Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - June 20, 2025 at 05:32 PM

BJ

Martina, we are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of your brother, Kenneth. We pray that God will continue to keep His Guardian Angels watching over you and your family. Know that Kenny was one of my favorite students. We always made each other laugh. We will always keep you in our thoughts and prayers. The Jackson family, James, Barbara, James Jr., and Kendric.

Barbara W. Jackson - June 21, 2025 at 09:37 AM

TH

“ *RIP Kenny. I've thought about you a lot. You gave me your number when you left the agency and i tried to call/text but i doubt you got it. Sucks to know that you'll never know you were on my mind, but i think of you often. Just finding out you passed today. Just know you'll never be forgotten.*

TH - October 26, 2025 at 02:09 AM

FH

“ *It was truly a pleasure to be a residential aid for Kenneth at Dove Pointe. Kenneth was certainly a joy to be around, and he would light up the room with all his laughter and his joking. Kenneth will truly be missed.*



Fayetta Hull - June 27, 2025 at 01:45 AM

AM

“ Amy lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randolph Barnes



Amy - June 24, 2025 at 07:58 AM

SN

“ Kenny,
We were drawn together because of our birth years. We were both children born in the year of “65”. I was glad to share our experiences together on our journeys to the mall , movies, shows, basketball games and church. You always had to look nice to go on the town. Your hats, coats because you were always cold and glove, scarf in the winter time. I loved to go shopping you were the bargain shopper. You always had to have your M&M when you went to the movies with the guys group.Holly Center Recreational crew will surely miss your smile and love of GOD. You always wanted ask me how my husband was doing. I will truly miss my 65. Alice Ledger Ness Holly Center Recreation Department. ❤️🙏🥹🕶️



Susan Alice Ledger Ness - June 22, 2025 at 01:50 PM

LC

“ R.I.P Kenny, I'll never forget you and I will always remember how we me and brothers used to run around the church Mt. Wesley and ger our buttons whipped. But we still carried on and had much fun. Until we can do it again rest well my friend 💜❤️❤️💕

Lafayette Collins - June 21, 2025 at 06:29 PM

TA

“ *My Forever Friend* 🤍 *You are deeply missed already!*”



Tumicka Ayres - June 20, 2025 at 10:50 PM

TC

“ *Kenny will be greatly missed I enjoyed working with Kenny at Somerset he always kept me laughing at him*”



Takesha Cottman - June 20, 2025 at 10:25 PM

SH

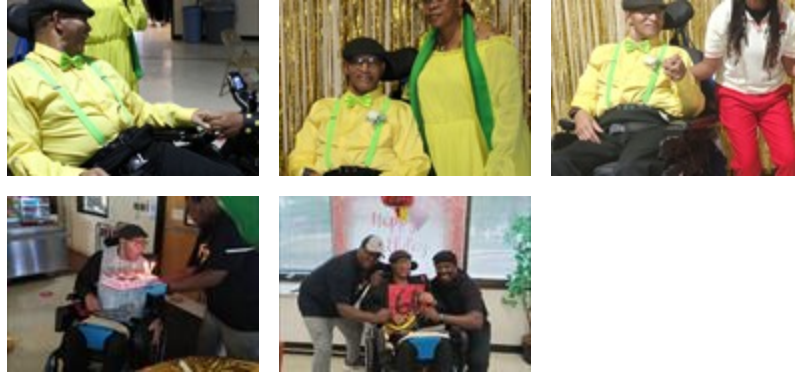
“ *Samantha Marie Hodges lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randolph Barnes*”



Samantha Marie Hodges - June 20, 2025 at 08:35 PM

DF

“ you were loved man, and i am glad you knew it and felt it while you were here, rest in power, in class, and greatness my friend.



Denay Fields - June 20, 2025 at 12:06 AM

DF

“ Denay Fields lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randolph Barnes



Denay Fields - June 19, 2025 at 11:46 PM

TA

“ To Kenny, BFF, My Barnesy



You really messed me up with this... My mind is all over the place. I remember the 1st time we met, you introduced yourself & told me some things about you, finishing up with saying I have MS, MS doesn't have me. We lost contact over the years then you came to Holly center and we picked up like we never lost a day. 20 yrs of being friends, from Dove Pointe to Holly Center and finally you have me at a lost for words. So many days we talked, and laughed (we cut up badly) & even shed some tears together. From having lunch together, going shopping, dr appts, dances, outside adventures or just sitting in your room talking. A time was always had. I started out as your caregiver and ended up making a friend for life. Just a week ago, we were celebrating you making it to 60 yrs old & now we gonna celebrate you finally making your dream come true. As you told many, many people, you have HIV (Heaven In View), and now you made it there.

Thank you for each memory that we have together (I will never forget you or them) & every prayer you've ever said for me. I will miss you!

*Sincerely
Your BFF Tumicka*

Sending my sincere condolences and prayers to the family

Tumicka Ayres - June 19, 2025 at 08:46 PM

DF

HIV for sure! You have an angel up there sis, forever! You know he cutting up bad up there. Watch over us KB!

Denay Fields - June 19, 2025 at 11:34 PM

BC

“ To Mr Kenny Barnes

After hearing about your passing, I was in shock, especially after celebrating your 60th birthday not too long ago. You always wanted to come to dietary to keep us company and make us laugh. You were a one-of-a kind client at Holly Center and you will be very missed.

RIP to you, Mr Kenny 🙏

Brenda Chauvette - June 19, 2025 at 04:02 PM

JB

“ Fly high with the Angels Kenny 🕊️ You tackled your illness with strength and courage. Victory is now yours. My condolences to your family.



Jeanne Waters Blake - June 19, 2025 at 11:14 AM

JP

“ Mr.Kenny man you hurt me with this one boy will I miss coming into your room and you would ask me the same questions everyday " How old you think I am?" "How's your Family?" & I would give you the same answers everytime 🙏.. May God confront your family in their time of need Holly Center definitely loss a good one

James Pyron - June 19, 2025 at 09:05 AM

JU

“ *Judy lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randolph Barnes*



Judy - June 19, 2025 at 07:54 AM

JU

“ *Oh Kenny B, I remember the first time I met you here at the Holly Center, when you made sure to point out your Morgan State diploma and a photo of you as a Drum Major! You impressed me then and that never changed. I recall conversations had while you were sitting on the mat table in the PT gym about some of your 'escapades' and you just never gave up, never gave in...you will be missed but peace is truly yours now.*

Judy - June 19, 2025 at 07:54 AM

GB

“ *Quick, as you we all called you at Morgan, Rest in Power brother. You were an amazing Drum Major for M3, and made me laugh on road trips during football season. Thank you for the memories.*

Georgia H Brown - June 18, 2025 at 11:26 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Randolph Barnes.*



June 18, 2025 at 10:21 PM

SH

“ Samantha Marie Hodges lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randolph Barnes



Samantha Marie Hodges - June 18, 2025 at 10:16 PM

DE

“ k.barnes, "bishop" "the mayor" "k.b." little nicknames i had for you. i am going to miss you friend and i say that genuinely and with all sincerity. i joined holly center over a year and a half ago.you were the first resident i met, i remember like yesterday, you were in your room reading your bible and listening to the gospel station from then I knew you were going to be a true friend indeed. We hit the streets hard, from earth wind and fire tribute concerts, brew river, festivals, shopping (which you loved the most) especially trying to find a bargain lol, church, haircuts at the barber shop, voting together...the trips were always great but most importantly was the laughter and conversations we had through the year. we cracked each other up and i enjoyed it so much. we talked our trash and laughed and go into a whole intellectual conversation in the next breath. i am tearing up thinking up how much i enjoyed our times together and will miss coming to get you and hanging out. gonna miss you man, it was so good to celebrate your 60th birthday with you. We hung out all day, church and brunch. glad you were able to see it. watch over us bishop , cause i know for sure you made it to the gates...bishop, love ya , miss you



Denay - June 18, 2025 at 05:24 PM

DP

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Dove Pointe - June 18, 2025 at 02:57 PM

SS

“ KENNY MR. " COOLDUDE" IAM GOING TO MISS COMING TO YOUR ROOM TALKING AND JOKING WITH U. I MADE SURE U WAS STRAIGHT EVERYDAY AND U WOULD SAY MAKE SURE YOU CLEAN MY ROOM AND I WOULD SAY I GOT U BUDDY. REST ON MY FRIEND

shaunda snead - June 18, 2025 at 02:13 PM

JV

“ Judy Velotti lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randolph Barnes



Judy Velotti - June 18, 2025 at 11:35 AM

LD

“ *Kenny Barnes was the life of our church, Mt Wesley. It wasn't when he was in the best of health. He became the motivational speaker when he was going through. How could we sit motionless in church when he was giving praise to the most high! It was during those difficult times for him that he was able to praise through the pain. Even when his body began to betray him he was still able to utter the name of Jesus! His testimonials were riveting causing Mt Wesley members to raise the roof in praise and worship. I tell you - it was powerful! Yes he was outgoing in school. He was certainly Phenomenal as the drum major!*

It was his love of Jesus that could move a mountain. It was his praise that could unite people and create a wave of down home worship! I choose to remember, Kenny as the one who during praise and worship time at Mt Wesley as a person who would thank God for Everything the good and the bad! You are missed!

Lanetta Dallas a classmate of Martina his sister.

Lanetta Dallas - June 18, 2025 at 11:18 AM

AC

“ *Amanda Collins lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randolph Barnes*



Amanda Collins - June 18, 2025 at 10:42 AM

MG

“ When I learned of his passing, I couldn't stop the tears. I pledged Kappa Kappa Psi under “Big Brother Quick.” My brief time at Morgan State University was some of the best memories of my life and, with his infectious smile and energy, Quick was a big part of them. RIP my brother.

KKΨ

Micheal Graham - June 17, 2025 at 10:35 PM

TN

My line brother is gone, but the memories will last forever. Going home with him to Snow Hill Maryland was one of the great memories. Pledging together and crossing the burning sand together was one of our best memories at Morgan State University!! Our late night conversations in the dorm covered every topic from girls to what life was gonna be like after MSU...he was a really solid friend. He met my family on several occasions and they Loved Quick! Rest in Paradise my Brother....”Till we Meet Again” 🤝🍫🙏😭❤️

Trent Nole - June 18, 2025 at 12:46 AM

KS

“ Kenneth Shockley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Randolph Barnes.

Kenneth Shockley - June 17, 2025 at 09:22 PM

KS

“ Kenneth Shockley purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Kenneth Randolph Barnes.



Kenneth Shockley - June 17, 2025 at 09:22 PM

RA

“ Kenny(Quick) and I were good friends in college! We were in the band together. I remember the day the band directors bought us both in to tell us one of us was gonna be Drum Major! I was his big brother and bought him in to KAPPA KAPPA PSI NATIONAL HONORARY BAND FRATERNITY in Fall 1985! THE CHILLI MOST as hee was known to us, was a real man and a great brother and friend! He had the biggest smile and his energy on band day was electric!
R.I.P. MY BROTHER!!!

Reginald L Allen

Reginald L Allen - June 17, 2025 at 08:50 PM

RM

“ ROOK PSI ROOK SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP MSU. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Randolph Barnes.

ROOK PSI ROOK SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP MSU. - June 17, 2025 at 07:57 PM

RM

“ ROOK PSI ROOK SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP MSU. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kenneth Randolph Barnes.



ROOK PSI ROOK SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP MSU. - June 17, 2025 at 07:57 PM

MP

“ Aww Kenny you will truly be missed. I know my Aunt Betty was all smiles meeting you at heaven gates.... Give her my love you guys are finally together again.

Martina L Purnell - June 17, 2025 at 07:52 PM

LW

“ Sending condolences and prayers to the family.



Lexine Wigfall - June 17, 2025 at 03:56 PM

FF

“ He is FREE. Sending prayers and our condolences to Martina and the family. Words cannot express how sadden we are to hear of his passing, but he is home and free from all pain and suffering. He was an awesome person full of love and life. He will be missed greatly. He is resting from his labor on earth and enjoying being in the presence of the Father. Rest on Kenny. Family continue to hold on to your faith and know that you are in our prayers.



Fitchett Family - June 17, 2025 at 02:22 PM

PF

So very glad to be able to share in your Bday Party....Now it's your time to Rest....Rest on "Kenny B" as I always addressed you....Ms Tish

PATRICIA FROOKS - June 17, 2025 at 02:50 PM

DC

Celebrating your birthday was indeed a blessing, you kept us laughing and you shared your own special moment with each of us. Yes, take your rest and let your wings soar.

*You will be missed.
Classmate, Donna Lynn*

Donna Lynn Copes - June 17, 2025 at 05:26 PM

DJ

My brother Kenny Quick Barnes. It has been years since I have seen you but the memories of our Morgan State Band days will always be priceless. Remembering the day you said that you will play trash cans just to march in the band. Then you ended up rocking that tenor saxophone. Those late Friday night rehearsals where you always wanted to challenge Kevin Yancey for the Drum Major position. Then that day your dream came true and you became Drum Major of the Morgan State Manificent Marching. You were always the man who kept a smile on every one face. You even made me jealous at times. lol. Man, I can't believe you are gone but I do understand. Love you my Rook Psi Rook and Kappa Kappa Psi brother. I am thankful for the times we shared. Don Mr. Fella Johnson

Don Mr Fella Johnson - June 17, 2025 at 07:42 PM

KM

May our Lord Jesus bring you comfort & peace in knowing Kenny is free, no longer in pain and in God's arms in comfort. HE was a great friend and considered family, in & out of the band. HE always had a smile and some kind word to say whenever you came across him on campus, we Rooks called him Quick... he will be missed, and never forgotten, R.I.P Quick now you can slow down and enjoy heaven. In loving memory. K.Roane Jr. MSU BAND.

Kenneth M.Roane - June 17, 2025 at 07:47 PM



Kenny Barnes was the life of our church, Mt Wesley. It wasn't when he was in the best of health. He became the motivational speaker when he was going through. How could we sit motionless in church when he was giving praise to the most high! It was during those difficult times for him that he was able to praise through the pain. Even when his body began to betray him he was still able to utter the name of Jesus! His testimonials were riveting causing Mt Wesley members to raise the roof in praise and worship. I tell you - it was powerful! Yes he was outgoing in school. He was certainly Phenomenal as the drum major! It was his love of Jesus that could move a mountain. It was his praise that could unite people and create a wave of down home worship! I choose to remember, Kenny as the one who during praise and worship time at Mt Wesley as a person who would thank God for Everything the good and the bad! You are missed! Lanetta Dallas a classmate of Martina his sister.

Lanetta Dallas - June 18, 2025 at 08:22 AM

DM

*I offer my condolences to his family, friends and caregivers at Holly Center. Never once did I see you without a beautiful smile on your face. It will be difficult to adjust to your absence but we know where you are and it is a far greater place to be. We will sure miss you Kenny. Rest in peace until we meet again.
Debora Musser*

Debora Musser - June 23, 2025 at 07:41 AM