

Internment

EVERGREEN BURIAL PARK
1340 WOODLAND AVENUE – COLUMBUS, OH 43219

Pallbearers

WANYA J. KATES - JESSIE J. KATES - TYLER J. KATES
MICHAEL KATES, JR. - TRACY KATES - EVERETT FIELDS, JR.

Acknowledgement

THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL J. KATES SR. WISHES TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS THAT HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO US DURING THIS DIFFICULT SEASON. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PHONE CALLS, VISITS, FLOWERS, OTHER ACTS OF KINDNESS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOUR PRAYERS. WE EXTEND SPECIAL THANKS TO: (ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH), PASTOR A.M. BALLINGER AND FAMILY

• MARLAN GARY AND THE STAFF OF THE MARLAN GARY FUNERAL HOME, THE CHAPEL OF PEACE
• EVERETT FIELDS JR.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JOANNE AND VALANCE SMITH FOR PROVIDING MEALS FOR THE FAMILY AND GUESTS WHO CAME EARLIER THIS WEEK. IT WAS TRULY A BLESSING TO NOT HAVE TO COOK. THE KATES FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE BOWERS FAMILY FOR DECADES OF LOYAL FRIENDSHIP. YOU ALWAYS KEPT AN EYE ON MICHAEL, CHECKING IN ON HIM, AND PROVIDING HOME-COOKED MEALS AND APPLE PIES. TO THE WHOLE JENKINS FAMILY, UNCLE LARRY AND AUNT MYRA: YOUR LOVE FOR THE FAMILY IS AMAZING, AND WE ARE TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE YOU IN OUR LIVES. MOM AND DAD BOTH CHERISHED THE BOND THAT YOU SHARED. THANK YOU!

THANK YOU, AUNT BERTHA; YOU TRULY ARE THE FAMILY ROCK.

TO THE LANG STONE FAMILY: MICHAEL LOVED YOU VERY MUCH. HE OFTEN SHARED CHERISHED STORIES OF YOU. HE SAID IF YOU WERE ATTENDING HIS FUNERAL TODAY, IT BETTER BE ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK!

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE TIME RIGHT NOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE NESBY BROWN. MICHAEL'S BEST FRIEND OF 68 YEARS. MICHAEL TRULY ADORED AND LOVED YOU. HE OFTEN REFERRED TO YOU AS HIS BROTHER.

Celebration of the Life of



MICHAEL J. KATES, SR.

SUNRISE
MAY 30, 1946

SUNSET
FEBRUARY 3, 2026

FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 20, 2026

VISITATION: 10:00 AM
SERVICE: 11:00 AM

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CHAPEL OF PEACE NORTH
2500 CLEVELAND AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OH 43211



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

CINCINNATI CHAPEL
647 FOREST AVE.,
CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM

OBITUARY

Michael J. Kates Sr. was born May 30, 1946, in Charleston, West Virginia, to Jessie Kates Miller and Julius Miller, and went to be with them on February 3, 2026, from Saint Ann's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1965, he married his childhood sweetheart, Carrie L. Lamar, at the age of 19 and started a family, having four boys. Carrie and Michael set out on their journey to raise their boys to be strong, independent, respectful, and well-educated young men. But their mission did not stop there. They also set out to help any kid that was in need, providing them with love, comfort, and respect. They were parents to the whole neighborhood, affectionately known as "Mom Kates & Pop Kates."

You could always catch Michael after work or on the weekends watching Ohio State football, sitting on the front porch, or playing music while eating his popcorn or tinkering on one of his classic cars ('77 Mercury Marquis).

Michael was preceded in death by his Mother, Jessie Kates Miller; Father, Julius Miller; Son, Donald Kates; Brothers, Albert Kates and Charles Sanders, Jr. and Wife, Carrie L. Kates.

Michael is survived by his **Sons**: Michael Kates Jr., Tracy Kates, and Julius Kates. He leaves a strong legacy of **Family, Kids, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren**, of which he was very proud, and a host of **Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, and Dear Friends**.

The Foundations He Built

We often measure a life by the things we can see. And with Papa, that is easier to do than with most.

Living in Columbus with him was like living with a local celebrity. We couldn't go anywhere—a grocery store, a gas station, a restaurant—without someone waving him down, shaking his hand, or stopping to chat. He knew everyone, and everyone knew him. It wasn't just that he was friendly; it was that he was present. He made an impression on people. He impacted them.

As the manager of Lang Stone, his impact on this state was quite literal. If you drive around Ohio, you can see the physical evidence of his hard work. You can see the structures, the facades, and the foundations that he helped supply and build. He dealt in stone—the most enduring material there is. He helped build things that were meant to last, things that would stand tall against the weather and the passing of time.

But as I look around this room today, at his children and his grandchildren, I realize that the buildings and the stone yards aren't his greatest work. We are.

There is a beautiful parallel between his life's work and his life's love. Just as he helped shape the skyline of Columbus and the landscape of Ohio, he shaped the landscape of our family. He didn't just manage a business; he managed to build a foundation for us that is as strong as any granite or limestone.

He taught us that impact isn't just about being known by the whole town; it's about being there for the people inside your own home. The stone he worked with was heavy, solid, and permanent. And his love for us was exactly the same. It was a weight that grounded us, a solid place to stand when the world felt shaky, and something that—like the stone he sold—is going to outlast him.

When we drive through Columbus now, we will see him in the buildings and the architecture he helped create. We will see his impact on the physical world. But when we look at each other, at his family, we see the impact that matters even more. We see the strength he instilled in his children, and the love he poured into his grandchildren.

He built a legacy in stone, yes. But he built an even greater one in us. And just like those stone structures, what he built in our hearts is made to last forever.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE.....

PARTING VIEW.....

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT: PSALM 23.....CARRIE L. KATES

NEW TESTAMENT: JOANNE SMITH

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....PASTOR A.M. BALLINGER

SELECTION.....MUSIC BY JAMES BROWN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CONDOLENCES

REMARKS.....TWO MINUTES PLEASE.....FAMILY AND FRIENDS

READING OF OBITUARY.....KIARA EICHELBERGER

THE FOUNDATION BY WANYA JAMES KATES

KIARA EICHELBERGER

SELECTION.....MUSIC BY JAMES BROWN

THE EULOGY

PASTOR A.M. BALLINGER

BENEDICTION.....PASTOR A.M. BALLINGER

RECESSIONAL.....CLERGY, FAMILY AND FRIENDS