

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR
Our Beloved

Pallbearers

Marcus Carter ~ Michael Carter ~ Preston Grant
Emmitt Grant ~ Blake Johnson ~ Ronnie Johnson ~ Chris Taylor

Honorary Pallbearers

Jalen Carter
Kameryn Carter

Flower Bearers

Devan Grant ~ Chaya Grant ~ Breanna Johnson
Micah Carter ~ Mekiah Carter ~ Courtney Kent ~ Dejah Kent

Special Thanks:

The family of Kayla Shanelle Carter extends our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to all who have surrounded us with love, lifted us in prayer, and walked with us during this time of unimaginable loss.

We begin by thanking our entire family, those who stood shoulder to shoulder with us through it all. Your love, strength, unity, and presence have been the foundation we leaned on. From hospital visits to daily check-ins, shared tears to just being present, you were there, and we are forever grateful.

We would also like to recognize:

Ron and Jewel Johnson – for your unwavering love, support, presence, and everything in between; your hearts carried ours
Pastor David Forbes and the Columbus Christian Center Church – for being the embodiment of what the Church is called to be: covering, community, prayer, and love in action

Marlan J. Gary Funeral Home – for your compassionate care, grace, and dignity in helping us honor Kayla's life with the beauty, respect, and class becomet of Kayla.

To every friend and loved one who traveled, gave financially, visited the hospital, made a phone call, sent a message, gave of your time and resources, brought meals, sent cards, made donations, and most of all, prayed—your love truly sustained us.

We especially want to thank our sons' fiancées, Domanisha Hampton and Sarah Mohr, who stood beside us—and with our sons—through some of the most difficult moments of our lives. You spent countless days and nights in the hospital, helping carry what often felt unbearable. You helped our sons shoulder a heavy load with quiet strength, unwavering love, and visible loyalty. Your courage and commitment did not go unnoticed, and we are forever grateful for the way you showed up—for them, and for all of us.

We are also grateful for those who gave quietly, without the need for recognition, those whose support came at just the right time and in just the right way. Your quiet acts of love were felt deeply and will always be remembered.

Every gesture, large or small, has left a lasting imprint on our hearts. Thank you for honoring Kayla. Thank you for holding us up.

With love and everlasting gratitude,
The Family of Kayla Shanelle Carter



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME

1 FUNERAL HOME | 4 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

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM

Kayla
SHANELLE
CARTER

NOVEMBER 16, 1996 — JULY 20, 2025



Obituary

Kayla Shanelle Carter was born on Saturday, November 16th, 1996, to her loving parents, Kevin and Juliet Carter. From a young age, she radiated joy, warmth, and compassion. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior as a young girl at Columbus Christian Center Church, a commitment that shaped her life and the way she loved others.

Kayla, affectionately known by a litany of nicknames, was a bright, shining light to those who had the privilege of knowing her. Above all, Kayla elevated the values poured into her as a young woman. Those values include but are not limited to love, peace, compassion, empathy, and especially joy.

As a young woman, Kayla explored and demonstrated her vast talents across numerous fields of application, including academics, athletics, dance, and music. She was a proud graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School in Gahanna, Ohio, and went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Psychology, graduating cum laude from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. While in college, Kayla was a dedicated leader of the Marching Band's Color Guard. She joined Tau Beta Sigma Sorority, Incorporated, where she built lifelong friendships and deepened her passion for service, music, and sisterhood.

As a young professional, Kayla established a reputation of both excellence and emotional intelligence in her work. She worked as a Registered Behavioral Technician at Empower, where her empathy and dedication left a lasting impact on the children and families she served. Her passion for mental health and advocacy was evident in every life she touched.

Kayla had a heart full of music, a contagious laugh, and a soul that loved to dance. She brought light into every room she entered, and her presence was a gift to all who knew her.

She was predeceased by her beloved grandfathers, William J. Carter and Willie Grant, and her uncle Reginald Carter.

Kayla leaves to cherish her memory: her parents, Kevin and Juliet Carter, her brothers, Kameryn Carter and Jalen Carter, and her sister TrèAna Carter. She is a cherished granddaughter to Angela Carter, Deborah Carter, and Ronnie Ann Grant. Kayla also leaves behind Aunts: Jewel Johnson (Ronnie), Vanessa Grant, Pamela Kent, Elizabeth Trotman; Uncles: Emmitt Grant, William J. Carter Jr (Sheila), Michael Carter (Tunisia); Niece: Nadia Boyd; Cousins, and a host of loving relatives, sorority sisters, co-workers, and friends.

Those who knew Kayla will remember her beautifully stunning and infectious smile, along with her charming, contagious laughter. Aside from her commitment to finding joy in any situation, Kayla was also a devoted follower of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Although Kayla's physical form has transitioned, her spirit remains in each of our hearts. As we adjust to our new reality, we are comforted by the memory of Kayla's silly sense of humor, joyful spirit, and enduring love. Her time with us was far too short, but her impact will live on in the hearts and lives of those she touched. We will forever remember her laugh, her love, and her light.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18

Our Beloved Daughter & Sister

Kayla Shanelle Carter

You were the daughter we always dreamed of. You were an answered prayer wrapped in beauty, laughter, and a fire that lit up every room you entered. You are, and will forever be, our princess. We will miss you in ways words cannot express. We will cherish your memory for the rest of our lives, holding tight to your laughter, the love, and the light you so freely shared with us. Until we meet again in heaven, sweet Kayla — know that we love you with everything in us.

Forever and always,
Our KK Poo Poo Bunny

To My Sister in Every Way That Matters, Kayla

I didn't grow up with a sister, but life had better plans it gave me you. You've been my sister in every way that counts: we've fought like sisters, gotten into trouble like sisters, laughed, cried, and loved like sisters. When I think of what it means to have a sister, I think of you. Calling you "cousin" doesn't come close to capturing what you truly are to me.

Thank you for the endless belly laughs—the kind that left me breathless and in tears. Thank you for being my voice of reason, my safe space, and for never judging me, no matter what.

One of my favorite memories is from the COVID days, when we created themed surprise parties for each other. Even in isolation, we found joy and celebrated each other in the most creative, beautiful ways. That spirit of celebration and love is something I will cherish forever.

You are my chosen sister, my forever friend, and one of the greatest gifts life has given me. I love you more than words can say.

Sister Cousins Forever

"She Laughs in Heaven Now"

In Loving Memory of Kayla Shanelle Carter

*Her smile—so full of light and grace,
Heaven surely paused to gaze at her face.*

*She loved without limit, she gave without end,
A sister, a daughter, a truest friend.
Her presence wrapped rooms in warmth and cheer,
Even now, it lingers near.*

*But the Lord called her name in a sacred tone,
And angels escorted His daughter home.
For Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,
Reached through sorrow, cut through strife—
And whispered, "She is Mine."*

*Though our arms are aching, hearts left sore,
We remember His promise: there's life evermore.
"I am the resurrection," He said with might,
"Whoever believes shall walk in light."*

*So we won't say death had the final say,
For Kayla just stepped into brighter day.
Her laughter now rings through celestial skies,
No more tears, no more goodbyes.*

*She lives where beauty knows no end,
Her soul at peace, her heart on the mend.
Gone from earth but not from our side,
She walks with Jesus, glorified.*

*And though our hearts feel torn apart,
We carry her love in every heart.
Forever our light, our joy, our song—
In Christ's embrace, she now belongs.*

Order Of Service

*~ Celebrating Her Life ~
Saturday, August 2, 2025 | 10:00AM
Columbus Christian Center
2300 N. Cassady Ave, Columbus, OH 43219*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

OPENING PRAYER OF GRACE & CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Pastor David C. Forbes, Jr.

SCRIPTURE
Minister Don Williams

MESSAGE OF COMFORT
Pastor David C. Forbes, Jr.

TRIBUTES
*Jewel Johnson, aunt
Jalen Carter, brother
Kameryn Carter, brother*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Minister Lavonne Bailey

CLOSING PRAYER
Pastor David C. Forbes, Jr.

Interment

Glen Rest Memorial Estate
8029 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

*Time of Refreshing for family and close friends
will be held at Faith Stadium
immediately following the interment.*

