

In Loving *Memory*

August 1, 1968

June 12, 2026



"The Lord is near to the
broken hearted and saves the
crushed spirit" Psalm 34:18

Michael
RAY KEYS

Saturday, June 27, 2026 | 1:00 P.M.

Tabernacle M.B. Church

1109 School Street | Dermott, AR 71638

Michael Wolfe, Pastor

REVEREND MICHAEL WOLFE, OFFICIATING MINISTER | IVONDA FREEMAN, MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

THE MEASURE OF A GOOD MAN IS FOUND NOT IN WHAT HE HAD, BUT IN THE LIVES HE TOUCHED



Celebrating THE LIFE & LEGACY OF *Michael Ray Keys*

Michael Ray Keys was born on August 1, 1968, at St. Mary's Hospital in Dermott, Arkansas, to the late Olivia Keys-Stephens and the late Ollie James Porter. He peacefully transitioned from this earthly life on June 12, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of love, faith, service, and compassion.

At an early age, Michael accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at Ash Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend R. A. Austin. A dedicated member of his church family, Michael faithfully served as Sunday School Superintendent and remained committed to sharing his faith and encouraging others throughout his life. Michael received his education in the Dermott Public School System and graduated with the Class of 1986. During his school years, he excelled in both track and basketball, demonstrating the determination and competitive spirit that would characterize much of his life. Following graduation, he attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello before answering the call to serve his country.

In May 1987, Michael enlisted in the United States Army, where he proudly served his nation with honor and distinction. Throughout his military career, he earned numerous awards and commendations, including the Kuwait Liberation Medal. Michael took great pride in his service and was deeply honored to be called a soldier.

Michael was known for his warm personality, generous heart, and unforgettable sense of humor. He loved people and had a remarkable ability to bring laughter and joy wherever he went. His bright smile, kind spirit, and willingness to help others made a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Michael was the type of person who would give his last to help someone in need.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Olivia Keys-Stephens, and Ollie James Porter; three brothers, Anthony Charles Haymon, James Bruce Riley, and George Edward Roe, Sr.; and his grandparents, Hattie Mae Stephens-Keys, Sam Keys, and Eliza Porter.

Michael leaves to cherish his precious memories: his beloved **daughter**, Shavon R. Keys of Seattle, Washington; his **grandson**, Tristen Keys of Seattle, Washington; and his **granddaughter**, Serenity Keys-Campbell of Seattle, Washington. He is also survived by **eight loving sisters**: Brenda F. Westbrook (John) of Memphis, Tennessee; Barbara J. Dyson of Dermott, Arkansas; Deborah E. Stephens of Memphis, Tennessee; Eddie L. Hill-Carter of Galveston, Texas; Rosemary Jackson of Dermott, Arkansas; his twin sister, Hattie M. Baker of Dermott, Arkansas; Shelia Mathis (Matt) of Terrell, Texas; and Barbara A. Solee of Little Rock, Arkansas. He also leaves his **stepmother**, Lillie M. Porter of Little Rock, Arkansas. Additionally, Michael leaves behind a host of devoted aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends who will deeply miss his presence, cherish his memory, and celebrate the impact he made on their lives.

Though Michael's earthly journey has ended, his legacy of faith, service, kindness, laughter, and love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Celebration of Life Service



MUSICAL PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL ----- *Ministers, Family and Bearers*

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament ----- *Pastor R.C. Barnes*

New Testament ----- *Pastor Mack Jackson*

PRAYER----- *Pulpit*

SONG----- *Choir*

RESOLUTIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & CONDOLENCES

Johnnie Dunn

SOLO ----- *Pastor Mack Jackson*

REFLECTIONS----- *(3 minutes only, please)*-----

VIDEO MONTAGE

SONG----- *Choir*

OBITUARY ----- *(read silently to soft music)* -----

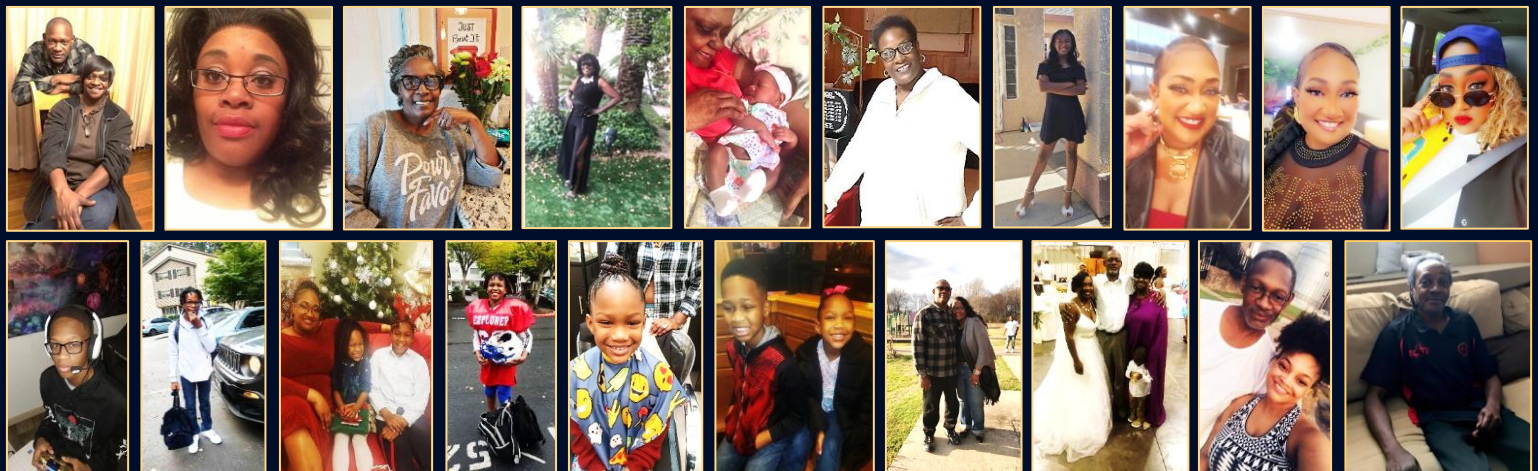
SOLO ----- *Jeremiah Barnes*

EULOGY ----- *Pastor Michael Wolfe*

MILITARY HONORS----- *United States Army Honor*

FINAL VIEWING ----- *Dillard's Funeral Directors*

RECESSIONAL



Acknowledgement

The family of Michael Ray Keys would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has shown love, kindness, and support during this time of loss. Your comforting words, prayers, visits, calls, flowers, and thoughtful gestures have brought peace and strength to our hearts when we needed it most.

We are deeply touched by the compassion you have shared with our family. Your presence and expressions of sympathy have been a true source of comfort and encouragement throughout this difficult season.

Interment

Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery
Little Rock, AR

Repast

Tabernacle Fellowship Hall
1109 School Street | Dermott, AR

Pallbearers

Jimmy Johnson

Adrian D. Dyson

Anthony D. Dyson

Freddie L. Wimbley, Jr.

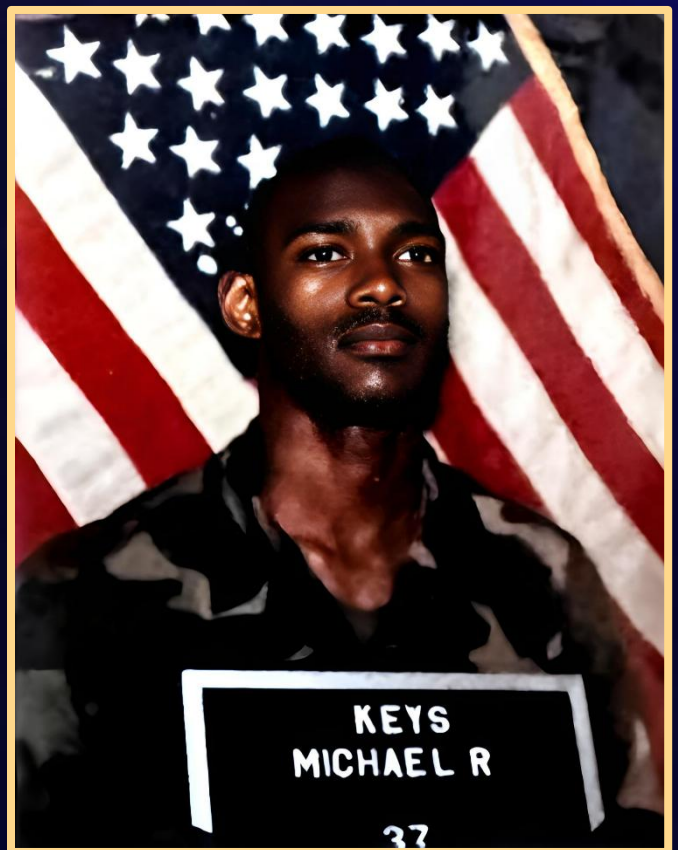
Tyrique Newman

Ruben Garcia

Services Entrusted to

Dillard Funeral Home

210 N. Trotter Street | Dermott, AR 71638



Memorial Keepsake by Alice Rogers-Johnson (870) 918-0139