



Benny Kelly, Sr.

April 27, 1938 - February 24, 2026

Benny Kelly, Sr. was born on April 27, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois. Benny was the second of five children born to Jack Kelly and Josephine Kelly, both preceded him in death.

Benny gave his life to Christ at an early age and attended Greater Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Benny attended Betsy Ross Elementary School, DuSable and Englewood High Schools in Chicago, Illinois. He also attended Allied Institute Trade School. Benny retired in 2000 after working many years for Central Baptist Village within the Property Management division.

Benny married Shirley Davis and nine (9) children were born in this union; Shirley preceded him in death. Benny found love again and married Jean (Ethel J. Kelly) on April 5, 2003; who also preceded him in death in 2024.

Benny was an avid boxer in his early years; he enjoyed baseball, basketball and football. He was a die-hard, devoted Chicago Bears fan for over five decades. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Benny had two favorite songs, "God's Been Good to Me" by the Pilgrim Jubilees; and "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke.

On February 24, 2026, the Lord called Benny Kelly, Sr. home to his eternal

resting place. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Jack and Josephine Kelly; two wives, Shirley Davis Kelly, and Ethal Jean Kelly; four children, Jack Kelly, Willie Kelly, Willetta Kelly, and Leonard Kelly; and one grandson, Randy Kelly.

Benny leaves to cherish his memories; four sons, Darrell Sr., Reginald (Deborah), Benny Jr. (Nicole), Jermalle; one daughter, Florincine (aka Pon'chi); four honorary sons, Peter (Yarquidia), Paul (Denise), James (Dewana), and Michael; one sister, Renee Phillips; 16 grandchildren; Darrell Jr., Eugene, Arielle, Lynn, Brooklyn, James, Sharon, Latoya, Ravienne, Adrienne, Lanora, Hakeem, Amber, Maline, Leonard, Adrianna; 13 great-grandchildren; and a host of relatives, family and friends..

Cemetery Details

Mt. Hope Cemetery

11500 S. Fairfield
Chicago, IL 60655

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR **9**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Visitation

MAR **10**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Funeral Service

MAR **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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