

*A Legacy of Love . . .
A Musical Celebration!*



SUNRISE
March 2, 1930

SUNSET
February 5, 2023

ELDER *T. Marshall Kelly*

LIFE CELEBRATION SERVICE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023 ~ 12:30 P.M.

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
5500 ADVENTIST BOULEVARD, NW ~ HUNTSVILLE, AL 35896

ELDER DEBLEAIRE K. SNELL, SENIOR PASTOR & OFFICIANT ~ ERIC MARSHALL KELLY, EULOGIST

Life Celebration Service

Video Tribute

Musical Prelude ~ Dr. Wayne Bucknor, *Musical Director*

Family Processional ~ “*Take It To The Lord In Prayer*” ~ Oakwood University Aeolians

Prayer of Comfort ~ Dr. Charles Drake, *Former Conference President (ret.)*

Greetings & Remarks

Elder Debleaire Snell, *Speaker/Director, Breath of Life Television Ministries & Senior Pastor, Oakwood University Church*

Scripture of Comfort ~ *Psalm 121* ~ Elder Benjamin Jones, Jr., *President, South Central SDA Conference*

Vocal Selection ~ “*Safe In His Arms*” ~ Lisa Robinson Vaughn

Scripture of Love ~ *Luke 6:27-35* ~ Dr. C. Wesley Knight, *Senior Pastor, Revision Church Atlanta*

Acknowledgments ~ Donna Green-Goodman

Congregational Traditional Hymn ~ “*Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*” ~ Dr. Jesse L. Wilson, Jr.

Personal Reflections

Pastor Larry Bailey & Pastor Prentiss Sorrel, *Current & Former Pastors, Harvest SDA Church*
Elder Debleaire Snell ~ President Benjamin Jones, Jr.

Vocal Selection ~ “*My Faith Has Found A Resting Place*” ~ Elder Adrian Pressley
Pastor for Pastoral Care, Loma Linda University Church

Personal Reflections

Robert W. Peters, III, *Commander, U.S. Navy, Chaplain Corps* ~ Dr. C. Wesley Knight

Musical Selection & Reflections (Video) ~ Take 6

Congregational Gospel Selection ~ “*The Lord Will Make A Way*” ~ Dr. Jesse L. Wilson, Jr.

Oakwood Academy Reflections

Shana Bliss Taylor & Ivan Alston ~ Audree Johnson, *WJOU General Manager*

Reflections/Special Presentation ~ Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, *President, Oakwood University*

Choral Selection ~ “*Oh For A Faith*” ~ Oakwood University Aeolians

Family Reflections ~ Pat Drummond (*Cousin*) & The DC Family

Vocal Selection ~ “*Awesome*” ~ Terrell Hunt (*Cousin*)

Family Reflections

The Grandchildren: Justin Marshall Kelly (*Presenter*) ~ Marissa Kelly ~ Korey Williams
Son-in-Law: Dane A. Timpson

Elder Kelly's Life Journey ~ Cheryl Drew (*Cousin*) ~ Carmen D. Hunt

Reflections/Vocal Selection ~ “*Here's One*” ~ Elder Wintley Phipps, *Senior Pastor, Palm Bay SDA Church*

Words of Comfort ~ Eric Marshall Kelly (*Son*), *Eulogist*

Congregational Praise & Worship Selection ~ "Just Want To Praise You" ~ Dr. Jesse L. Wilson, Jr.

Benediction & Closing Remarks ~ Elder Debleaire Snell

Recessional ~ Ministers & Family

Please remain seated until the family has exited the sanctuary.

Musical Reflections ~ "If We Never Pass This Way Again" ~ "A Few More Miles"

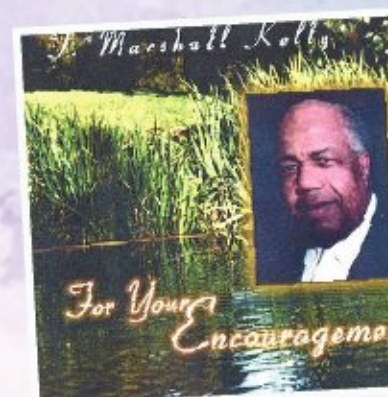
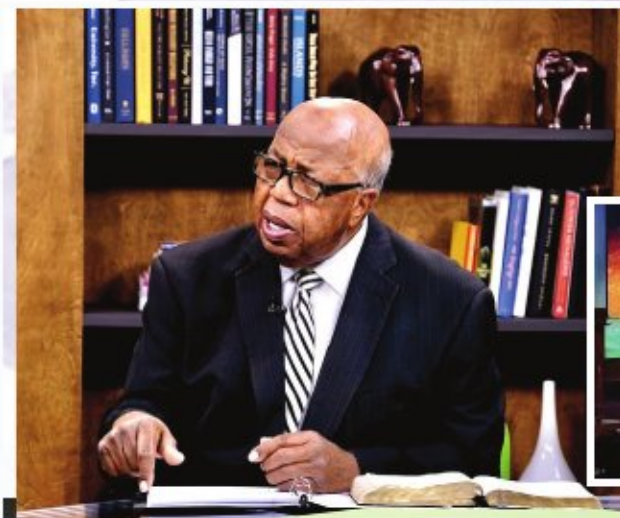
Scriptures of Comfort & Love

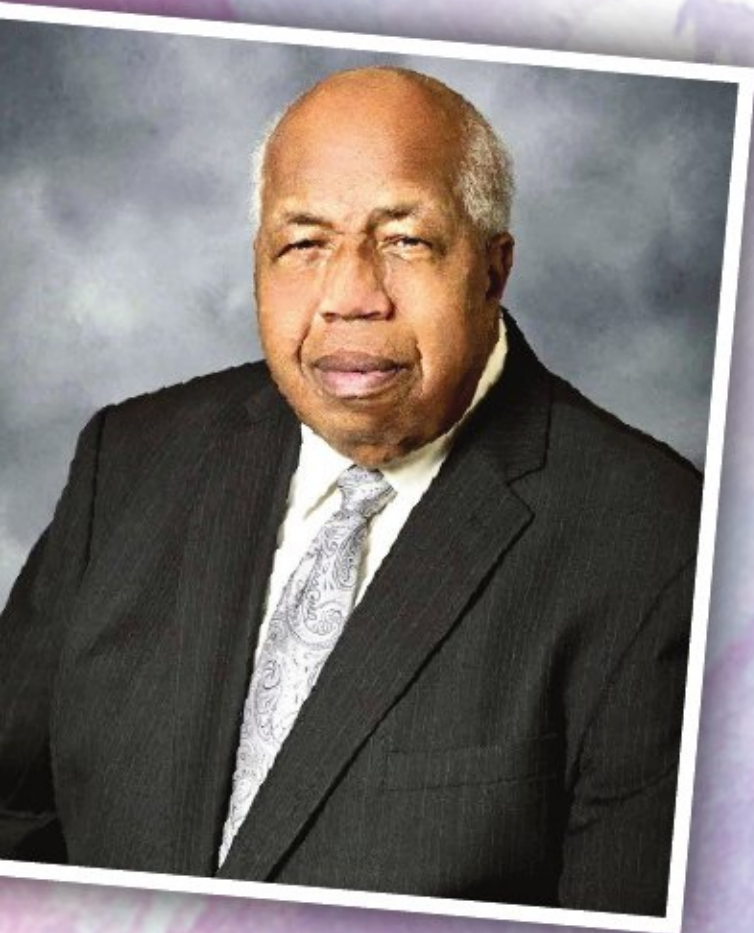
OLD TESTAMENT READING: PSALM 121, NKJV | *1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the LORD, who made Heaven and Earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. 8 The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING: LUKE 6:27-35, NKJV | *27 But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods, do not ask them back. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. 32 But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.*

The Quintessential

Pastor ~ Singer ~ Recording Artist
Composer ~ Bible Teacher ~ Comforter





Elder Kelly's Life Journey

*A musical legacy that spread
God's love around the world.*

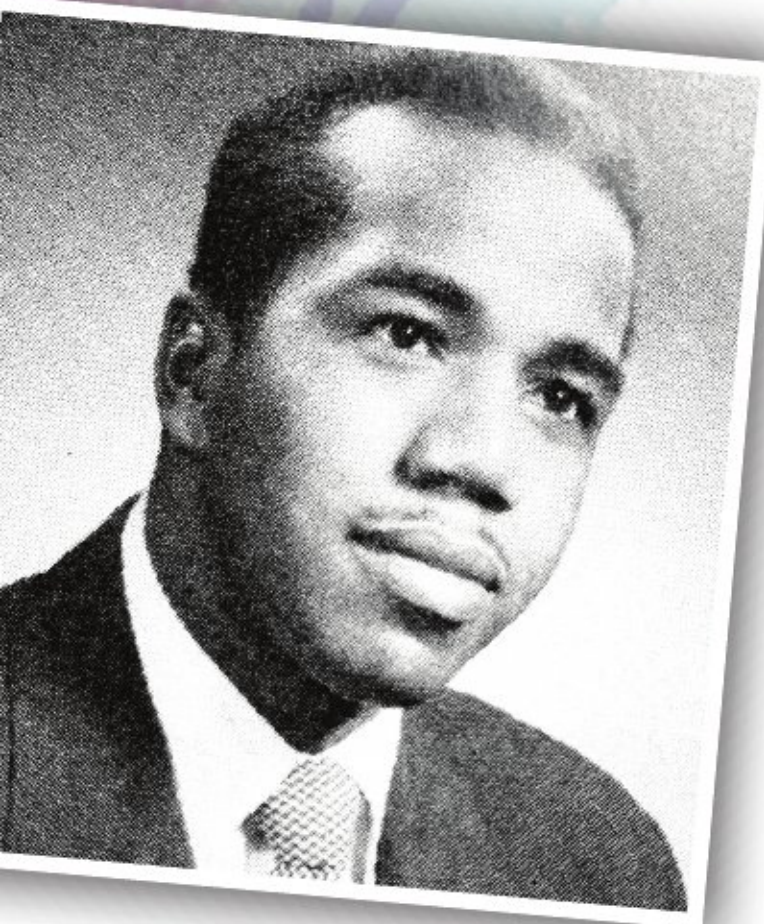
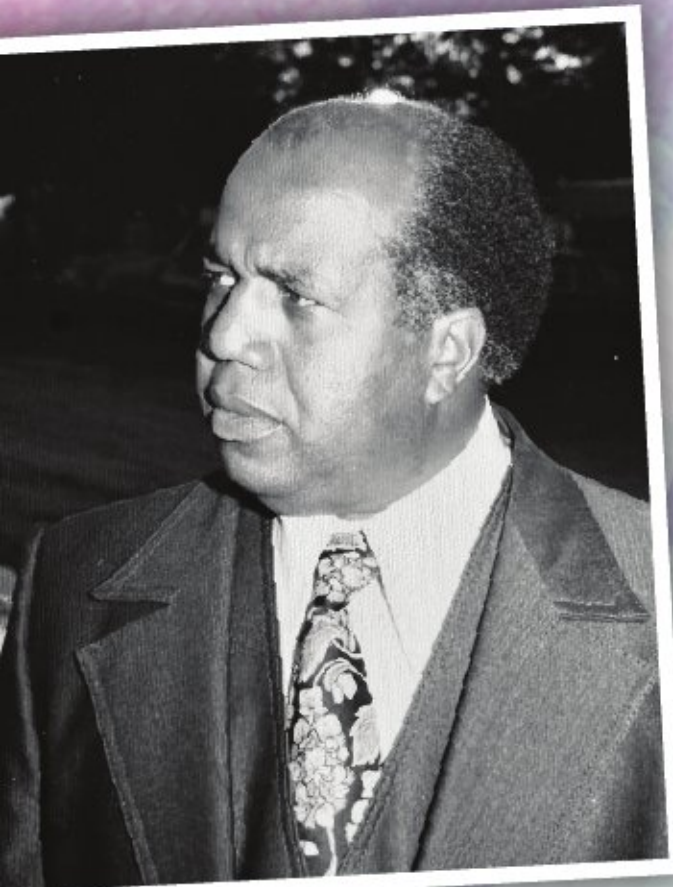
Everyone leaves a legacy. For Elder Thomas Marshall Kelly, that legacy was his faithfulness to his Lord and Savior, the unconditional love of God that he modeled, his loving human compassion, and his extraordinary musical gift, which inspired many souls around the world. He was the quintessential pastor who nurtured his members and always imparted an encouraging word. This humble giant, a “Prophet of Love,” possessed the spiritual gift of affirming those who scripture describes as the “least of these.” He simply brought joy and delight to everyone in his presence.

These admirable qualities were instilled in Elder Kelly from the time of his birth on March 2, 1930, in Cleveland, Ohio—the only son of Louis Marshall and Mary Elizabeth Kelly. Marshall, as he was affectionately called by his friends and loved ones, grew up in a loving Adventist home. He was nurtured in the Glenville Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he was an active youth who blessed the congregation with his special vocal gift. At the tender age of 11, he gave his heart to the Lord and was baptized by Pastor Ulysses S. Willis, Sr. Marshall attended Ramah Academy and finished his secondary education at Oakwood Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. It was during his formative years that he felt the calling of the Lord to the gospel ministry.

In pursuit of that calling, Marshall matriculated at Oakwood College in 1947 to study theology. While there, he blessed the entire campus with his musical gift. Most notably, he was the bass-baritone voice of the Velvetones, a traveling quartet, established to assist Dr. E. E. Rogers in a national student recruitment effort. In 1949, Marshall transferred to Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University), where he completed his theology degree, served as class pastor, and was a charter member of the Collegians choral group. He received his first pastoral call from the Chicago-based Lake Region Conference, where he was ordained and served for 25 years. Elder Kelly was a pastor at several Midwestern churches, including Morgan Park, Fort Wayne, Springfield, Marion, Muncie, East St. Louis, Peoria, Shiloh, and Burns Avenue. His sermonic theme was the same whenever/wherever he preached: *God's love and Christ and Him crucified*. And, yes, he musically reminded everyone that it takes *everything* to serve the Lord!

In December 1952, Marshall took to heart the scripture, “*He that findeth a wife findeth a good thing*,” and married the love of his life, the beautiful Jean Garland, whom he had known since kindergarten. Theirs was a marriage for the books over an incredible span of 63 years “till death did they part” when Jean passed in 2015. They were blessed with two wonderful children (PK’s), Eric Marshall and Karen Nadine, and, later on, a new generation of millennial Kellys. Pops was a nurturing, devoted patriarch who poured into his family the love of Jesus.

Elder T. Marshall Kelly’s musical legacy is indeed legendary. During his fruitful 43-year ministry, he often traveled as a singing evangelist, working with such evangelistic titans as Dr. E. E. Cleveland, Elder C. D. Brooks, Elder W.C. Scales, Jr., Elder Tim Lewis, and Elder John Carter. Their collaborations won innumerable souls to Christ. His singing career took him across America and worldwide to several countries, including Canada, Australia, New Guinea, Fiji, New Zealand,



Ghana, South Africa, Bermuda, and Japan, where he musically inspired untold thousands to embrace God's love.

Additionally Elder Kelly shared his musical ministry on many occasions for the Voice of Prophecy Family Reunion Series, and he was a frequent guest on 3ABN, where he ministered in song and the spoken word. His first exposure to media ministry was as a guest of Elder William and Virginia Fagal, founders and co-hosts of the *Faith for Today* television program. As sort of a "bucket-list" wish, Elder Kelly asked God for the opportunity to sing to His glory at the iconic Sydney Opera House in Australia, and God granted his request, not once but twice. He returned years later to sing there, but this time he even performed a duet with his talented wife, Jean.

Elder Kelly's anthology of album/CD recordings include *"Songs To Remember," "Songs Of Inspiration," "For Your Encouragement," "Hymns For Him," "All That Thrills My Soul," "Live At The Sydney Opera House,"* and, of course, his worldwide favorite and signature song, *"It Takes Everything To Serve The Lord."*

Elder Kelly also left an enduring legacy in the area of Christian education. While ministering with Pastor Samuel Meyers at the Shiloh Church in Chicago, he taught Bible at Shiloh Academy. His ability to connect with and influence young people became the hallmark of his ministry there. Years later, he taught at both of his alma maters, Oakwood Academy and Oakwood College, and was recognized for making the Word relevant to his students.

Continuing in ministry, Elder Kelly served in the South Central Conference for several years as a pastor at the Harvest and Athens churches and retired in 1995. He then accepted a call to "unretire" and become the interim chaplain at Oakwood College, where he served for two years. Coincidentally, this position allowed him to minister to his grandson, Justin. No sooner than Elder Kelly retired again in 2001, he "unretired" yet again to serve as interim senior pastor of the Breath of Life and Westminster Good Samaritan congregations in the Southern and Southeastern California conferences. One BOL member tearfully remarked after Pastor Kelly's departure: *"We were touched by an angel."*

One of his favorite retirement activities was to rise early and greet students as they entered the front doors of Oakwood Academy. On any given morning, you could hear his deep baritone voice welcoming students with a robust, *"Good morning, Miss!"* or *"Good morning, Sir!"* His intent was for them to feel reassured of their value as God's children at least for one moment in the day.

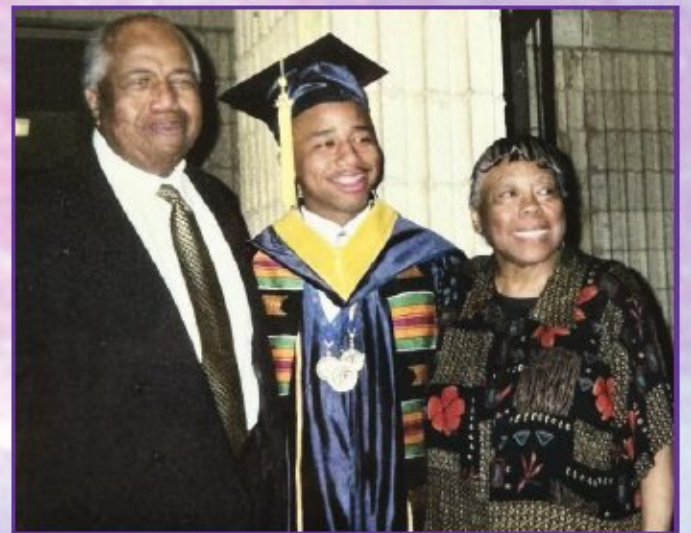
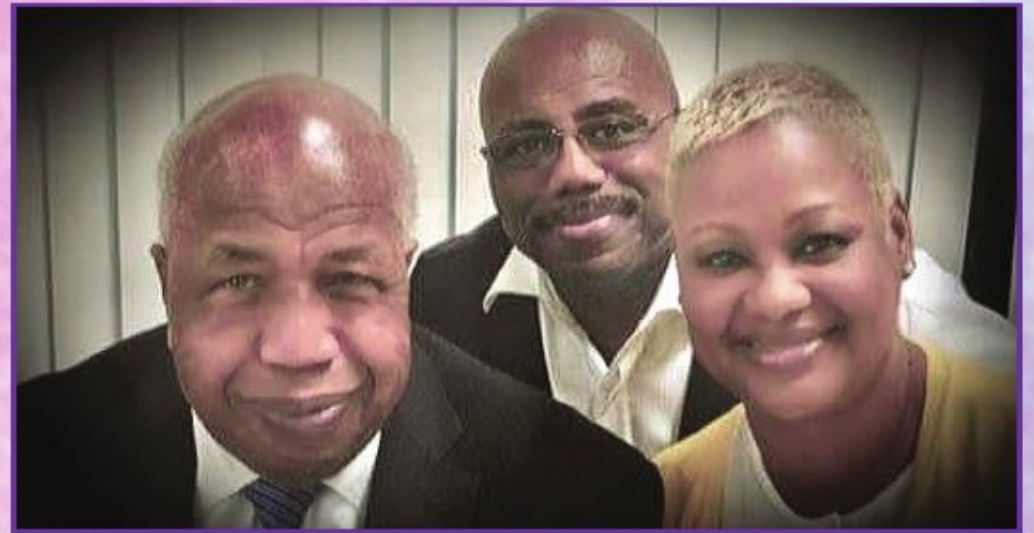
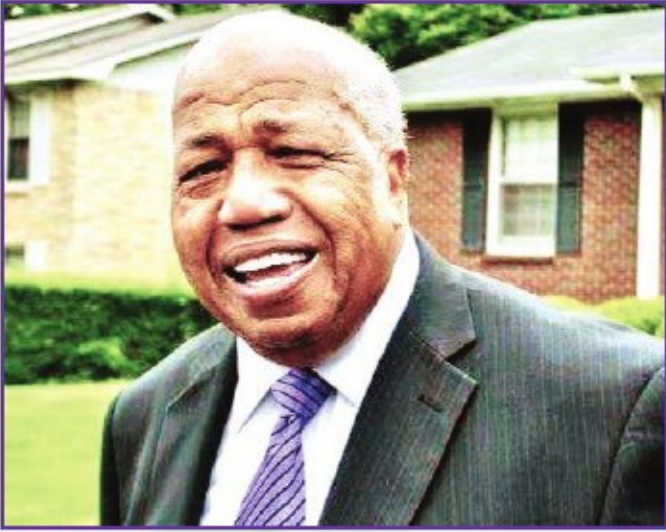
"That T. Marshall Kelly Voice" left a legacy across the airwaves of Huntsville, as he was well known for his weekly radio broadcast, *"Think It Over,"* which, at 44 years, was the longest-running show airing on WOCG/WJOU.

Just weeks before his 93rd birthday, "The Good Elder" went to sleep peacefully in the Lord on February 5, 2023 and is now resting next to his beloved wife, Jean, awaiting that Great Resurrection Day. Though his legacy lives on, T. Marshall Kelly will be deeply missed by his son and wife, Eric Marshall & Lori; his daughter and husband, Nadine & Dane; his grandson and wife, Justin Marshall & Sheree; his granddaughter, Marissa, and her mother, Marci; his grandson, Korey, and his father, Vernon; and his great-grandchildren: Adella Lynn and Charles Marshall; as well as a host of family and friends in the worldwide community of faith—all of whom adored "Pops."

Perhaps the life, legacy, and ministry of T. Marshall Kelly can be summed up best by the wisdom he lived by: *"Lead with love, because it is the most powerful force in the universe. After all, God is Love!"*



*a LOVE
STORY for
the BOOKS*







//
HIS SONGS LIFTED US.
HIS VOICE COMFORTED US.
HIS WORDS CONVICTED US.
HIS PRAYERS MOVED US.
HIS WALK GUIDED US!

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH



With Heartfelt Gratitude

We, the family of Elder T. Marshall Kelly wish to express our deep and abiding appreciation to everyone who has supported us with your comforting messages, phone calls, prayers, social media testimonials, visits, meals, and other generous acts of kindness during his illness and at this difficult time. Please continue to pray for our family as we face the mournful days ahead.

Special Thanks

"A Legacy of Love . . . A Musical Celebration" would not have been possible without the support of so many individuals and institutions. The family wishes to thank all the program participants and volunteers who have so selflessly given of themselves and their talents. We particularly thank the following individuals for special services rendered:

Oakwood University Church & Pastoral Staff
Oakwood University Church Audio-Visual Staff
Oakwood Academy
Harvest SDA Church & Pastor Larry Bailey
Clarence Brown, Memorial Program Editor-Designer
Jes' Us Productions
Donna & Eddie Goodman
Renee Scruggs
Dr. Wayne Bucknor
Dr. Jesse L. Wilson, Jr.
The Staff of Comfort Care
Elder Kelly's Caregivers
Windsor House Nuring Home
Royal Funeral Home, Karen Smith, CEO
2 Men In A Kitchen

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