



## Roxanne Kelly

August 22, 1957 - February 19, 2015

Roxanne was born in Alexandria, Virginia on August 22, 1957, the oldest child of Mary and Leonard. She attended Alexandria City Public Schools for elementary and middle school, and T.C. Williams high school where she became forever known as “Foxy Roxy” for her beautiful afro and fabulous style. While in high school “Foxy” enjoyed socializing with friends. After graduating from T.C. Williams in 1976, “Foxy,” Mary, and Leonard, younger sister Bonji traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to drop her off at The Morris Brown College. While in college “Foxy” quickly became friends with Linda (God mother to her daughter Dominique), Gail, Marilyn, Benita, and Terry. They became life long friends and would take an annual girls trip to the Bahamas every winter. While in college “Foxy” was committed to learning all that she could about the education system, more importantly special education services.

After college, she returned home to Alexandria, VA and immediately began giving tirelessly of herself to teens and children at Hopkins House. Here she mentored teens and hosted several life skills classes to help prepare them for the “big world” outside of Alexandria. She then decided that it was time to move into the public school system and began her tenure as a special educator working with elementary school children as a resource teacher. “Foxy” had a keen understanding of what students with special needs had to have and made sure that ALL people did what was best for “her” babies.

Throughout her 20 year tenure as a teacher she devoted her time to educating students in Prince George's County Public Schools and the District of Columbia Public and Charter Schools. She recently began working with high school students at Idea Public Charter School and worked diligently to ensure that all students were on track for college or their preferred career path. Whether it was explaining the importance of our African American history, healthy eating, reading habits, or purchasing clothing and supplies for students she treated them all as her own. She loved them and they loved her.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband Charles Kelly, two daughters, Dominique and Diana, one son, De'Angelo, two sisters, Bonji Payne and Kimberly Terrell , one brother, Leonard R.

Turner, mother and father in-law Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kelly, three aunts, Margaret Caple, Yvonne

Terrell and Brenda Preston, two uncles Pernell Caple and Carlton Preston, 4 sister in-laws,

1 brother in law and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends.

### Remembering Roxanne

In my mind, the best teachers are the ones who continue to learn, so that they can be the most effective classroom instructor and educational administrator. Roxanne was like that, even though she had been teaching for over 30 years, she never stopped attending seminars and workshops so she could stay abreast of trends and technologies to help educate youth. Nonetheless, she continued to educate herself because she knew that youth today are different and that it was important and necessary to keep current, and by having certifications in her field of education.

Because Roxanne attended many classes, seminars and workshops, she

definitely knew and understood the conventional way of educating youth. Most of the schools where she taught had a high population of inner-city youth. She understood them and knew that the conventional way of educating them did not work well for every student. Her mission was to educate, so she knew she had to have a different approach to reach them and it sometimes was not the conventional way. Roxanne would often say that just because the books say do it this way was not always the way to do it. "You must understand and know how inner-city youth think so that you can educate them. You must know where they come from and understand that some may not have slept the night before or had anything to eat," she said. She learned early in her career that all youth would not learn using the traditional way because they came to school with problems you could not imagine. She knew for a fact that to be effective she had to find different approaches to catch their attention. Once she had their attention, Roxanne let them know that she understood them, respected them and "had their backs." After she captivated their attention, she started the education process. Her classroom children truly loved her.

Very often Roxanne spent her own money to help support her classroom children. She would go shopping to buy shoes, clothes, food, supplies, etc. for them. It was hard for Roxanne to see children doing without so she felt impelled to help them. Because she would provide for her classroom children, sometimes her own children had to go without. Because she raised great children, they understood that their mother "was going to do what she had to do." Nonetheless, her classroom children will really miss her.

One thing that set Roxanne apart from everyone else was her witty sense of humor. She was so funny. That girl would have you crying and laughing at the same time. When you were with her it was nothing but laughing. Whenever Roxanne would go to different places, people would always say, "Please come back, we like you. We had a great time." She was loved by all.

When Roxanne was truly at peace, she was at the beach. She loved the beach. That was a place where she found total tranquility. As a matter of fact, she would go to the beach and find her spot at 8 a.m. in the morning and would not leave until late in the night. If you're looking for Roxanne in Heaven, check the beach first. I'm sure you will find her sipping a cocktail and lying on the beach, just chillin'.

Roxanne loved her family and friends. She would often host and entertain family and friends at her home. Any opportunity would do just to have dinner and spend time with family and friends. The family was recently blessed with "baby Karter," whom she had many plans for . . . plans like baking cookies, going to restaurants, coloring, etc. Baby Karter will know who Roxanne Caple-Kelly was because she will live in our minds and hearts forever.

Lovingly submitted by her dearest friend Linda Watts-Thomas

# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB **28**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
2932 King Street, Alexandria  
Alexandria, VA 22302

## funeral service

FEB **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
2932 King Street, Alexandria  
Alexandria, VA 22302

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ I will remember Foxy Roxy as a person who always smiled. I will always remember her as Miss Gaines Hall.



Sharrie Walker - March 07, 2015 at 07:00 AM

MC

“ Marilyn Cunningham-Kenoly lit a candle in memory of Roxanne Kelly



Marilyn Cunningham-Kenoly - March 02, 2015 at 06:09 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - March 01, 2015 at 03:41 PM

CB

“ Carolyn Ingram Berry lit a candle in memory of Roxanne Kelly



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**Carolyn Ingram Berry** - February 27, 2015 at 08:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette-** - February 27, 2015 at 04:05 AM

VG

“ I send sincere, heartfelt condolence and love to the Kelly & Caple families in the loss of your beloved Roxanne. I had the pleasure of working with Roxanne for many years at the Hopkins House. Roxanne initially worked with youth but in later years joined me in working with the seniors of Ladrey and Charles Houston "Krunch Bunch." As has been expressed by so many, Roxanne was truly a friend to all. She had an effervescent smile and personality that was magnetic. I will always remember the support and love she gave to me when my mother passed many years ago. I share in your sorrow as my heart is also saddened by her transitioning, yet I rejoice in the knowledge that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."  
Hold tightly to your memories as she is always in your hearts. I am so sorry that I will not be able to attend her homegoing celebration as I will be out of town, but please know that I will be thinking of you and praying for your continued comfort and strength. Dominique, I'll be in touch with you next week.

With Love,  
Vanessa K. Greene  
Alexandria, VA.

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vanessa greene - February 26, 2015 at 08:23 AM



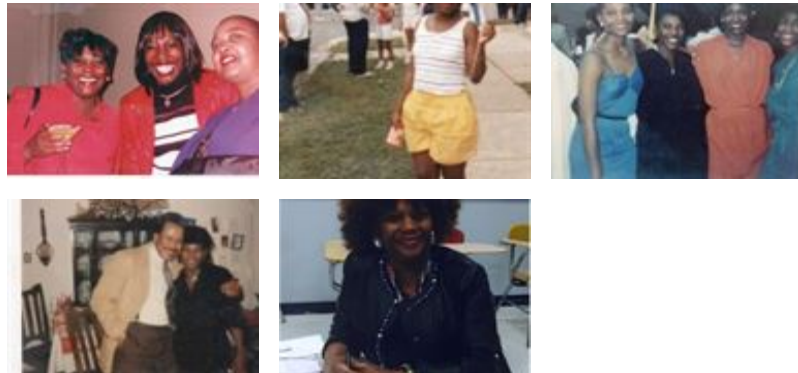
“ 39 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - February 26, 2015 at 07:13 AM



“ 9 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - February 26, 2015 at 01:40 AM



“ Joyce Sparrow lit a candle in memory of Roxanne Kelly



Joyce Sparrow - February 25, 2015 at 11:01 AM

JA

*Roxanne I will always love you & remember you. May you rest in peace.*

*JAZZ*

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**Jazz** - March 03, 2015 at 08:28 AM