

*Celebrating the*

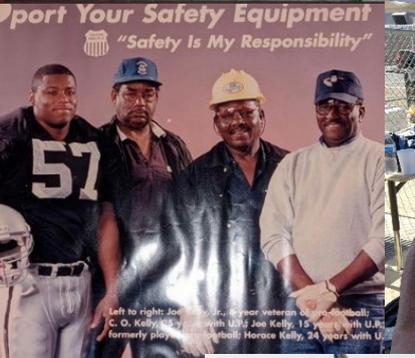
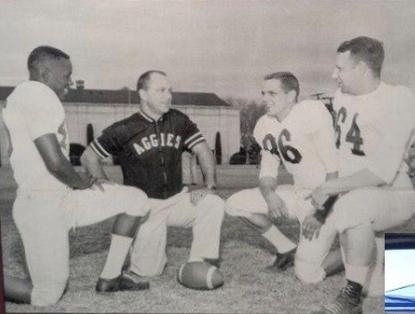
*Life of Joseph  
Winston  
Kelly  
Sr.*

*Sunrise July 1, 1937  
Sunset May 25, 2022*

*Services held Saturday June 18, 2022*

*Calvary Baptist Church of Pacoima, San Fernando, CA*

*Xavier L Thompson, Pastor, Minister Brent Huff - Eulogist*



# *The Legend*

---

Joseph Winston Kelly, Sr. was born July 1, 1937, to Horace Kelly and Sylvia Stearns Kelly in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Joe attended Carver Elementary School, an all-Black school. Joe was attracted to sports at a young age, but Carver had no field to accommodate him. He was not allowed entrance to games at local Carlsbad High School either; he would have to look over the fence to watch the games until halftime when blacks would be allowed entrance to the game. Carlsbad schools became integrated just as Kelly began his high school career. Joe Kelly and John Wooten were the only two blacks allowed to play sports at Carlsbad High. In 1951 the school was integrated and with the support of Athletic Director, Ralph Bowyer, blacks were given the opportunity to participate in sports. Kelly excelled in three sports while at Carlsbad (Basketball, Baseball and Football). In 1954 Kelly's athletic prowess led the Carlsbad Cavemen to win the State Basketball Championship against Clovis, NM.

Interestingly enough, Kelly and the other black players were not allowed to eat in restaurants with their white teammates. Kelly would credit Coach Bowyer for packing up the whole team and not allowing the white players to dine separate from their teammates at the restaurants in question. After his Senior Year, Kelly was given a full scholarship to New Mexico State University.

In 1955 Kelly enrolled at New Mexico State University and immediately made an impact not only on the football, basketball, and baseball teams, but on the whole NMSU Campus. Kelly also lettered in track and field. His perseverance as a four-sport athlete playing halfback was unstoppable, and he led the football team in rushing for two consecutive years as a freshman and sophomore.

As a junior, Kelly moved to quarterback throwing for 351 yards and two touchdowns for the season stumbling for 399 yards on the ground and scoring four touchdowns. During his senior season Kelly moved to fullback rushing for 382 yards and seven touchdowns. Kelly rushed for a total of 2,143 yards and 16 touchdowns during his collegiate career. Joe Kelly completed his college stay as the first African American to ever play football and basketball at New Mexico State University; and also, one of the first to be featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. He was inducted into NMSU hall of fame in 2007.

Kelly graduated from NMSU in 1958 and was drafted by both the NBA's Lakers and the Los Angeles Rams in 1959. He played three years in the Canadian Football League for the Ottawa Roughriders 1960 Grey Cup Championship team. His game winning touchdown was voted one of the best Canadian football plays of all time. Kelly retired from football in 1962 returning to California, where he worked for Union Pacific Railroad until 1998.

Since 1959 he devoted his life to giving back to the youth in his community. He began his volunteer work at Pacoima Park coaching baseball, basketball, and touch football. He was also employed by Pacoima Park for 17 years. In addition, he also volunteered and coached at Sunny Slope baseball park for over a decade as well as San Fernando High coaching girls softball, basketball, and varsity football. Joe was also a board member of Valley Youth Conference serving as a division president for over 2 decades. Even with all those volunteer hours under his belt, Kelly is best known for his tenure with the North Valley Golden Bears. For over 40 years, he was committed as a coach and president for the youth in football, track, and the cheer squad for the Bears. He became affectionately known as “Papa Joe” to thousands of youth in the San Fernando Valley. He was a mentor, father-figure, uncle, and family friend to the entire community. He helped to bridge the gap between the Black and Brown community and created a safe space for all. Hundreds of families in the Sylmar, San Fernando, Pacoima, and Lake View Terrace areas have been impacted by “Papa Joe” and his family’s giving hearts. Drop offs and pick-ups in the famous yellow van, meals, financial assistance to those families that couldn’t afford pay - no matter what the challenge, Papa Joe devoted his life to be sure the youth in the community were given an opportunity. Just maybe, to Kelly, his forty and some years of giving to youth was his greatest accomplishment.

Preceding him in death ~three of his children Aaron Kelly, Kirk Kelly and Regina Kelly, Bonus Son Michael Dorsey • Granddaughter, Shanita Kelly • Mother Sylvia Hurd-Kelly, Father Horace Kelly • Sisters Arlene Kelly and Velma Kelly-Burns • Brothers Charles O Kelly, Horace Kelly Sr., Bobby Lee Kelly, Edward Kelly, Bobby Irvin Kelly, and Archie Lee Kelly.

He is survived by his wife Clementine (Tina) Kelly • Children Bridgett Lopez (Robert)-Lancaster, CA., Joe Kelly Jr. (Tiffany)- Cincinnati, OH, Hazel Kelly- Cincinnati, OH, Debbie Kelly-Reseda, CA, Felicia Kelly-Lancaster, CA, David Kelly-Lancaster, CA, Shoshana Cook-Chatsworth, CA Terron Kelly, Sr.-Lancaster, CA, Jason Dorsey-Hansen Hills, CA, and God-daughter Octavia Johnson-Atlanta, GA • Sisters Alice Kelly Woods-Canyon Country, CA, Ruthie Carrall-Fresno, CA, Verna Jacobs-Albuquerque, NM, Ruby Clark- Los Angeles, CA, Johnnie Preston(Larry)-Las Vegas, NV, Rhonda Patton-Sunrise, AR (DeWitt), Glenda Taylor (Jerry)El Mirage, AR • Sister-in-law Beatrice Kelly – Cincinnati, OH • 10 grandchildren, 9 great- grandchildren and host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

