

The Measure Of A Man

*The measure of a man is not determined
By his show of outward strength
Or the volume of his voice Or the thunder of his actions
Or of his intellect or academic abilities*

*It is seen rather in terms of the love that he has
For his family and for everyone
The strength of his commitments
The genuineness of his friendships
The sincerity of his purpose
The quiet courage of his convictions*

*The fun, laughter, joy and happiness he gives
to his family and to others*

*His love of life His patience and his honesty
And his contentment with what he has*

By Grady Poulard

Acknowledgement

Our Family wishes to extend its profound sincere gratitude for the out pour of love, support and prayers during this tragic time. With heavy hearts we gratefully appreciate it, we will continue to keep the many memories of Keith alive.


BENTA'S
Funeral Home, Inc.
630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 234-3600



In Loving Memory of
Keith Grayson p.k.a.
DJ KAYSLAY

SUNRISE: AUGUST 14, 1965 ~ SUNSET: APRIL 17, 2022

Funeral Service
Monday, April 25, 2022 • 10:30 AM
BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.
630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10030

Interment
Monday, April 25, 2022
GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARK
234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Order of Service

INVOCATION Elder Jay Gooding

SCRIPTURE Elder Jay Gooding

Old Testament

New Testament

PRAYER OF COMFORT Elder Jay Gooding

REFLECTIONS Family & Friends
(2 Minutes Please)

OBITUARY Jarrod Whitaker

EULOGY Elder Jay Gooding

COMMITTAL & BENEDICTION Elder Jay Gooding

RECESSIONAL

Obituary

Keith Grayson, p.k.a. DJ Kay Slay, was born August 14, 1966 in New York City and raised in East Harlem. As a child, he was drawn to disco, dancing the Hustle; when early Hip-Hop DJs began turning breakbeats from those songs into protorap music; he traveled to the Bronx to observe and participate in the rising culture. Keith would hop on the six trains and go up to the Bronx River Center to see Afrika Bambaataa and the Zulu Nation rock. Keith took up the affiliated art forms of breakdancing and graffiti, even casually rapping with his friends, mastering every element of Hip Hop culture. Street art became his chief passion, first under the tag Spade 429 and later Dez TFA, which he shortened to Dez.

Amid the city's crackdown on graffiti, Dez took on the name Kay Slay and developed a fascination with turntables. In 1989, after serving a brief stint of incarceration, Keith found solace in the Nation of Gods & Earths and fully immersed himself into his craft of performing as a DJ and releasing exclusive mixtapes. DJ Kay Slay secured his first multi-million-dollar record contract with Columbia Records and released his debut album, *The Streetsweeper, Vol. 1*, on 20 May 2003. In the summer of 2003, Kay Slay released a single, accompanied by a music video, for a song titled "Too Much For Me." The single, which features a chorus sung by then-up-and-coming singer Amerie, also features verses from American rappers Birdman, Nas and Foxy Brown. The song peaked at number 53 on the US Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart, making it the DJ's highest-charting single to date. Kay Slay would later go on to release dozens of albums, music projects, videos, and guest appearances culminating in his Magnus opus, *Rolling 110 Deep*, recruiting 110 of the most iconic and influential emcees that have framed Hip Hop. Kay Slay featured as an on-air radio personality at the world-famous Hot 97 held the number one rated show called the "Drama Hour" for over 20 years, helping shape what Hot 97 is today. Kay Slay also hosted Streetsweeper radio on Shade 45 Sirius XM Radio. Kay Slay founded the longest-running urban print *Straight Stuntin Magazine* and was a consummate business owner, hustler, and entrepreneur.

DJ Kay Slay served as a crucial bridge between hip-hop generations, developing from a teenage B-boy and graffiti artist into an innovative New York radio personality. He was known for his exclusive mixtapes that stoked rap battle, broke artists, and helped change the music business forever. We will never again see a man of such character and magnitude.

Keith is survived by his dear mother, the honorable Sheila Grayson, brothers Kwame and Michael Grayson, Great Aunt Albertha Middleton, Aunt Carolyn Green, Aunt Elaine Simmons, Uncle Ronald Jenkins, Uncle Kevin Wiley, Uncle Waverly Green, Cousins Tasha Green, Sean Green, Jameik Simmons, Cousin Shantay Bueford, his partner Shea Robinson, Special Friend Joshua White, protege and Brother in-kind Papoose, Special Friend Big Gene, # 1 Fan Travis Woody, Half Brother Reggie Jones AKA Smoke 106, Childhood Friend Timothy Brown, Special Friend Charlie Moe, a host of cousins, family, Business Manager and Brother in-kind Jarrod Whitaker, and a legion of friends, family, fans, supporters, and Hip Hop Culture itself.

Lovingly, The Family