TOGETHERNESS



Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Whatever we were to each other, that we still are. Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak of me in the same easy way you always have. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of your mind
because I am out of your sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near,
just round the corner. All is well.
Nothing is passed. Nothing has been lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before, only better: Infinitely happier. We will be one, together forever.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Our family wishes to extend our profound and sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Through our cherished memories, **VAN** will live on in our hearts forever. May we continue to celebrate his life by living freely and with gratitude every single day that we have the ability to take a breath.

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

BENTA'S
Funeral Home, Inc.

630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 234-3600

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF



VAN K. KILPATRICK

SUNRISE: JULY 16, 1946 - SUNSET: NOVEMBER 19, 2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, November 28, 2026 • 11:00 A.M.

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME
630 Saint Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10030

PASTOR ROBERT KILPATRICK II, *Officiating*
FABIAN RALPH, *Minister of Music*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Invocation

Musical Selection

Scripture Readings
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection

Poem Reading

Reflections
Family & Friends
(Two Minutes Please)

Obituary Reading

Musical Selection

Eulogy

Benediction

Recessional

OBITUARY

Van Kirk Kilpatrick was born on July 16, 1946, in Harlem, New York, to the late Everett Kilpatrick and Ethel Cooper Kilpatrick. On November 19, 2026, at the age of 80, Van departed this life, leaving behind a legacy of wisdom, love, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

A contractor by trade, Van was a man of remarkable skill and knowledge. He dedicated 20 years of service to the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development as an inspector before retiring in 2023.

Van was a man of distinction who appreciated the finer things in life. Known for his impeccable style, commanding stature, and undeniable presence, he carried himself with an air of sophistication that was uniquely his own. He loved fine food, fine jewelry, and, above all, the finest love of his life, his beloved wife, Mrs. Yvonne Foster Kilpatrick.

Van enjoyed playing basketball and chess, watching sports, and engaging in stimulating conversations. An animal lover, Van had a special affection for his beloved cat, Micky, and his granddog, Remi, both of whom held a special place in his heart.

Van knew no strangers. He possessed the remarkable ability to strike up a conversation with anyone about virtually anything. A wealth of knowledge and wisdom, he was always willing to share advice, offer his perspective, and impart a life lesson. Whether you sought his advice or not, you could always count on him having some wisdom to share.

One of Van's most endearing qualities was his colorful vocabulary and signature expressions, affectionately known as "Van-isms." From "Splenderific!" to "One hand washes the other, and they both wash the face," and his unforgettable "What the Micky Fricky!" his words were as distinctive as the man himself. These expressions will forever echo in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved him, bringing smiles and laughter for generations to come.

Van was preceded in death by his loving parents, Everett Kilpatrick and Ethel Cooper Kilpatrick; his three brothers, Wallace Cooper, Everett "Buzzy" Kilpatrick, and George Kilpatrick; and his two sisters, Dorothy Wilson Kilpatrick and Kay Kilpatrick.

He leaves to cherish his precious memory his devoted wife, Yvonne Foster Kilpatrick; his two loving daughters, Antoinette Kilpatrick and Vanessa Kilpatrick; his stepdaughter, Adrienne Dickerson (David); his grandchildren, Cassandra Bracey and Brandon Kilpatrick; his great-grandchildren; his sister, Nettie Kilpatrick; his brother, Robert Kilpatrick; his sister-in-law, Ida Kilpatrick; his beloved cat, Micky; his granddog, Remi; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

To his family, Van was more than a man of wisdom, style, and stature. He was a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and uncle whose presence was woven into the fabric of their lives. His voice, his laughter, his advice, and even his unsolicited words of wisdom will be deeply missed but forever treasured.

Van's presence was unmistakable, his personality irreplaceable, and his legacy everlasting. He was a man who could command a room, engage a stranger, impart wisdom, and leave a lasting impression simply by being himself.

Although his earthly journey has come to an end, his spirit will live on through the lives he touched, the wisdom he shared, the laughter he inspired, and the countless memories he leaves behind.

A man of style. A man of stature. A man of wisdom. A man who was truly one of a kind.

Rest peacefully, Van Kirk Kilpatrick. Your life was nothing short of "Splenderific."