



Senator Kay Patterson

January 11, 1931 - December 13, 2024

Senator Kay Patterson was born in Darlington County on January 11, 1931, the son of James and Leila Prince Patterson. His early years were spent in Darlington and Sumter Counties under the watchful eyes and instruction of his paternal and maternal grandmothers, Mrs. Meta B. Patterson and Mrs. Emma Joseph.

He attended Lincoln High School in Sumter, South Carolina, graduating in the Class of 1949, followed by two years at Claflin College (now Claflin University). Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served until 1953. While in the Marines, he earned the rank of Buck Sergeant.

Continuing his education, Senator Patterson completed requirements for a B.S. Degree in Social Sciences at Allen University in 1956 and a Master's Degree in Education at South Carolina State College (now South Carolina State University) in 1971. Other coursework included those taken at Temple University and the National Defense Education Act/NDEA Institute in Black History at Atlanta University in 1963.

Senator Patterson spent fourteen years as a classroom educator, teaching at several schools – W. A. Perry Middle School, C. A. Johnson Preparatory Academy, and Benedict College. In January 1983, he was selected by the SC House Education Committee to serve on the University of South Carolina's

Board of Trustees, the first Black to serve on the Board since Reconstruction. He also served a 16-year tenure as a UniServ Representative for the SC Education Association before retiring in 1986. Recognized for his commitment to education and community service, he was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from South Carolina State University in 2000; and the Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of South Carolina in 2005. He was also honored by AT&T in the 2003 SC African American History Calendar.

An outspoken legislator championing the cause of the poor and downtrodden, he was elected to the SC House of Representatives in 1974 and served until 1985. The same year, he was elected to the SC Senate, Richland County District 19, and served until 2008 with committee assignments in Banking and Insurance, Corrections and Penology, Education, Finance, and Transportation. In 1990 during his tenure in the Senate, he served as Chairman of the SC Legislative Black Caucus.

As an outspoken and fiery speaker in his practice of politics, Patterson was a moving force in promoting and effectuating change in the state of South Carolina. Since 1980, he had been a proponent for removal of the Confederate flag from the South Carolina State House dome having initially sponsored a bill on the removal in 1983.

Among the many membership affiliations through the years, he was a member of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church and most recently, Brookland Baptist Church, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Edisto Lodge No. 39 Prince Hall Masons, NAACP Life Member, to name a few.

Senator Patterson was married to the former Jean James of Pinewood, SC. He and his wife are the parents of two children, Eric (deceased) and Pamela and grandparents to Eric Jr., Ashley, and Courtland.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Senator K. Patterson Scholarship Fund at Allen University and/or South Carolina State University in honor of his lifelong commitment to education.

Allen University
Attn: Dr. Dub Taylor
Office of Institutional Advancement
1530 Harden Street
Columbia, SC 29204

Or click on the link <https://allen-university.snbll.com/senator-kay-patterson-scholarship-fund>
or text senator-kay-patterson-scholarship-fund to (803) 710-7484

South Carolina State University
SC State University Foundation (with in memory of Kay Patterson on the memo line) and mailed to
Office of Institutional Advancement,
PO Box 7305,
Orangeburg, SC 29117.

Online gifts may be made at www.scstateallin.com. At the drop-down box for gift designation, choose General Scholarship and indicate "in memory of Kay Patterson" in the comments section.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC 19. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Receiving Friends

DEC 19. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Ceremony

DEC 19. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Lying in Repose

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Brookland Baptist Church
1066 Sunset Blvd
West Columbia, SC 29169
(803) 796-7525

Funeral Service

DEC **20**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Brookland Baptist Church
1066 Sunset Blvd
West Columbia, SC 29169
(803) 796-7525

Tribute Wall

GW

“ Gloria Foxworth Washington lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson



Gloria Foxworth Washington - December 29, 2024 at 05:58 PM

CM

“ Jean”Rick” Ravenel, widow of Arthur Ravenel, Jr. wanted to send her deepest condolences. Arthur and Senator Patterson served together at the Statehouse and despite being of different parties, were friends and office mates. Arthur spoke always spoke fondly of Senator Patterson.

carly mann - December 21, 2024 at 10:17 AM

ME

“ I will always remember Senator Kay patterson as a person with a smile and a word of truth when needed at any point and time .Mary Easterling

Mary Easterling - December 20, 2024 at 06:33 PM

HG

“ HULINE GOODMAN lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson



HULINE GOODMAN - December 20, 2024 at 10:37 AM

LG

“ *Lee A Goodman lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson*



lee a goodman - December 20, 2024 at 10:36 AM

DB

“ *God has truly blessed our lives with Senator Patterson! Our condolences and prayers to your family.*



Dorothy Brunson-Thomas - December 20, 2024 at 06:03 AM

CH

“ *My sincere condolences to the Patterson family. Lifelong neighbors, a mentor and a friend. He will truly be missed.*

Clevette L. Hudnell

Clevette L. Hudnell - December 19, 2024 at 08:11 PM

WF

“ *Thank you for your service. To the family, please accept our heartfelt sympathy in this difficult time.*



William R Davis and family - December 19, 2024 at 06:33 PM

ES

“ Evelyn Stewart lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson



Evelyn Stewart - December 19, 2024 at 11:58 AM

AJ

“ Our deepest condolences to the Patterson family. We will truly miss Senator Patterson's kindness, humor, and down to earth nature. We pray God's peace for you all at this tough time.

Sincerely,
The Bingham and Johnson Families

Ann Bingham Johnson - December 19, 2024 at 08:31 AM

DS

“ Please accept our sincerest condolences and prayers during this time of loss. To the family of Senator Kay Patterson, we extend our heartfelt sympathies from 1st Cousin Leroy (Junior) and Fosteen (Sister) Benton, Dr. Valerie Benton Smith, and family. May the many positive memories of Kay keep you strong, and may peace and comfort surround you during this difficult time.



Dt. Valerie Benton Smith - December 18, 2024 at 10:15 PM

DS

“ Please accept our sincerest condolences and prayers during this time of loss. To the family of Senator Kay Patterson, we extend our heartfelt sympathies from 1st Cousin Leroy (Junior) and Fosteen (Sister) Benton, Dr. Valerie Benton Smith, and family. May the many positive memories of Kay keep you strong, and may peace and comfort surround you during this difficult time.



Dt. Valerie Benton Smith - December 18, 2024 at 10:13 PM

TF

“ Thomas Felder lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson



Thomas Felder - December 18, 2024 at 07:46 PM

AS

“ On behalf of the Swygert Family we send our Deepest Condolences and Sympathy to the Patterson Family. Rest In Peace Mr. Patterson. Andrew & Marilyn Swygert and Family.

Andrew Swygert - December 18, 2024 at 07:29 PM

LN

“ THANK YOU FOR YOUR DECENTLY DIGNIFIED,
DAZZLINGLY DELIGHTFUL AND DAUNTLESS DEDICATION
TO OUR WORLD:
LEON N. & VIRGINIA B. RICHBURG,SR
SUMMERTON,,SC

LEON N.RICHBURG,SR - December 18, 2024 at 12:50 PM

WH

“ UNLCE Kay LIFE ANDJOB WELL LIVED
AND DONE LOVE YOU FROM BERTHA LIL
Willie MR WILLIE LOVE CLEM AND JEN
FAMILY HAS BEEN UNITED UNTIL I AM
THERE Y'ALL SAVE A SPOT ME



Willie Hampton - December 18, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Senator Kay Patterson.



December 18, 2024 at 11:06 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of
Senator Kay Patterson.



December 18, 2024 at 10:46 AM

JN

“ Our condolences and prayers to Senator
Patterson's family. He will always be
remembered!

Jerome & Pat Noble



Jerome Noble - December 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM

SC

“ On behalf of Pastor G. Bernard Ponds and the Sutton Branch Baptist Church Family. We thank you for your service to God , your Country and your Fellowman. We thank you for being our Guest Speaker on several occasions at Sutton Branch. We thank your family especially your Grandmothers for sharing you with us and countless others. Rest well from your labor the Honorable Kay Patterson a man among men. We bid you farewell.



Sutton Branch Baptist Church - December 18, 2024 at 12:54 AM

MD

“ The Farrow Hills community will miss him

myrtle dinkins - December 18, 2024 at 12:43 AM

JN

“ Take your Rest, Senator, in the Lord's peaceful and eternal home. You have earned it!



Jerome & Pat Noble - December 17, 2024 at 08:05 PM

FC

“ *WELL! Senator Patterson, you have finally come into the rest you so richly deserve after the many years you spent toiling in the vineyard. I was enriched by our friendship and I thank you for the life lessons you taught.*

Rest in peace,

Frank Caggiano

Frank Caggiano - December 17, 2024 at 05:59 PM

RS

“ *Our condolences to the Patterson family.*



Rotan Family ..Elgin SC - December 17, 2024 at 05:53 PM

“ Mrs. Patterson,

My heartfelt condolences and prayers for God's peace and comfort for you and your family in your bereavement for your dear husband. My husband and I, each had pleasant and fun conversations with Senator Kay Patterson at a local grocery store 3-4 years ago.

I also visited Senator Patterson at your home shortly after my father's passing, in the early part of this century. Shortly before his passing, Daddy shared with me that he and Senator Patterson had been friends.

In recent years, I also learned that the Senator was friends with Daddy's first cousin (and the cousin's wife) who was a generation older than Senator Patterson. "Cousin" was also a fellow Marine veteran.

I learned that the Senator continued to check on "Cousin's" wife after his passing, until she passed away. And as well, shared with me by "Cousin's" daughter, who passed away nearly 3 years ago, Senator Patterson continued to checked on her until shortly before she died.

In my visit with the dear Senator, at your home, he shared a disparity experience that he and my daddy had in their early adult years, in SC; even as veterans.

It is wonderful that Senator Patterson was a true advocate and representative for our people, helping to relieve some of the systemic oppression here in Richland County and Columbia, South Carolina.

Unfortunately, there aren't very many African American elected representatives like Senator Kay Patterson who are still advocating against the disparities or who are serving the lives, true rights, as well as the needs and desires of all of our taxpaying people and their families.

Some of them seem to self-serving and only interested and dedicated to the realtors, the developers and commercial entities, but not the lives of those who elected them, as done by Senator Patterson.

I thank our God for Senator Kay Patterson's life, as well, for your life Mrs. Patterson. You supported your Senator husband. And as well, YOU endured the many stresses and hardships that he encountered while in office, representing and serving the people. May the God of all comfort, comfort and keep you during this difficult time.

And may joy be added as you remember the wonderful legacy of your dear Hubbie!

God's blessings of peace, comfort, and joy to YOU and your Family.

*Lovingly,
Charlyce Goodwin*

C Goodwin - December 17, 2024 at 01:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Senator Kay Patterson.*



December 17, 2024 at 01:03 PM



“ *Byrdie Mae Josephby lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson*



Byrdie Mae Josephby - December 17, 2024 at 08:02 AM

TF

“ *My sincere deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.* ”



Tammy Harrison Edwards and Family - December 17, 2024 at 07:08 AM

GF

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.* ”



Gloria Harrison Brown & Family - December 17, 2024 at 07:07 AM

GS

“ *Gail Scott lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson* ”



Gail Scott - December 16, 2024 at 10:28 PM

IS

“ *Ira, Gail, & Khari Scott lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson* ”



Ira, Gail, & Khari Scott - December 16, 2024 at 10:26 PM

IS

“ *Ira, Gail, & Khari Scott lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson*



Ira, Gail, & Khari Scott - December 16, 2024 at 10:25 PM

PM

“ *Paulette Fox Myrick lit a candle in memory of Senator Kay Patterson*



Paulette Fox Myrick - December 16, 2024 at 10:06 PM

CF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



CFB - December 16, 2024 at 09:20 PM

CF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



CFB - December 16, 2024 at 09:17 PM

DM

“ *Mr.patterson you will be missed out hear in Greenview you getting on us all about keeping the yard's clean taken out trash for us all so we could live in a nice community we love you and will miss you very much Sr. Rip*

Debra mims - December 16, 2024 at 01:25 PM

DM

“ *Debra Mims sent a virtual gift in memory of Senator Kay Patterson*



Debra mims - December 16, 2024 at 01:16 PM