

MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Morningside



Judge Keith in the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School, Wayne State University.

Judge Damon J. Keith, judicial giant and civil rights icon, dies at 96

By Virginia Gordon | Michigan Radio NPR

Detroit — Judge Damon J. Keith died Sunday at the age of 96. The Detroit native, one of the nation's longest-serving federal judges, was a tireless champion of civil rights and civil liberties.

Keith was preceded in death in 2007 by his wife of more than 50 years, pioneering Detroit physician Dr. Rachel Boone Keith, with whom he raised three daughters: Cecile, Debbie, and Gilda.

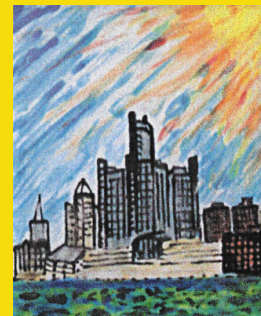
Born in 1922, Keith was the grandson of enslaved people. He went on to become the sixth African-American in U.S. history to serve on the federal court of appeals.

During his time on the bench, he made a series of landmark decisions that changed the social and legal landscape of the country. His outstanding accomplishments were all the more remarkable in light of the obstacles of racial bigotry with which he was repeatedly confronted.

In a 2015 PBS interview with Tavis Smiley, Keith described the Detroit of his childhood. Story continued on page 2...

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Judge Damon J. Keith, judicial giant and civil rights icon, dies at 96

By Virginia Gordon | Michigan Radio NPR

In a 2015 PBS interview with Tavis Smiley, Keith described the Detroit of his childhood.

"I never had a black teacher. And the Fisher Y was right across from Northwestern high school. Blacks could not go to that Fisher Y," said Keith. "There wasn't a black police officer above the rank of sergeant. There were no black judges. There were no black elected officials." Traveling to college, Keith was forced to sit in the back of the train because of his race.

He served in a segregated army in World War II.

Even his professional success as a lawyer and then as a judge did not shield him from the sting of racism. "There's not a day in my life in some way large or small, I'm not reminded of the fact that I'm black," said Keith at age 92 in the same PBS interview.

Federal judge Wilhelmina Wright, one of Keith's former law clerks, said Keith's experience of racial discrimination fueled his unwavering commitment to fairness.

"Judge Keith's legacy is one of courage, of justice, and a willingness of speaking truth to power," said Wright.

Keith was appointed to the federal trial court in Michigan in 1967. That was only three years after the federal Civil Rights Act was signed.

In short order, contentious cases landed in his courtroom.

Keith found deliberate systemic race discrimination at work in education in Pontiac schools, in housing in Hamtramck, and in hiring and promotion at Detroit Edison.

And his findings angered those who considered the North to be free of the kind of intentional race discrimination associated with the South.

At Howard University Law School, Keith studied under Thurgood Marshall, who would later become a U.S. Supreme Court justice and who would through his life remain Keith's mentor.

Keith said Marshall told his students it was their job to turn into a reality the phrase white men had inscribed on the façade of the U.S. Supreme Court building: "equal justice under law."

"Equal justice under law: That's the way I've tried to be as a lawyer and as a judge - make those words meaningful," said Keith in the 2015 PBS interview.

Judge Keith did just that, and in the process, established himself as a civil rights icon and as one of the giants of American law.

What \$125K buys in Detroit right now

By Aaron Mondry | Curbed Detroit

Right here in Morningside!

This brick colonial in Morningside has similar square footage (1,443 across three bedrooms) and facade as the others on the list. Like the others, it was also remodeled and had the floors refinished. There's a brand new kitchen with an interesting exposed wood beam. We don't say this much, but the basement looks to be in good shape as well.



4690 Courville St. Selling for \$124,000. Courtesy of Century 21.

Morningside Community Meetings

Our general community meetings are the first Saturday of every month from 12-2 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 11475 E. Outer Drive. If you live in the boundaries of I-94 to Mack Ave., Alter Rd. to E. Outer Drive, you're automatically a member of our great community. We hope to see you soon!

Gleaners Food Bank Distribution

If yourself know of anyone in need of food assistance, please come out to the Gleaners Food Bank distribution on May 6th at U-SNAP BAC, 14901 E. Warren Avenue. The food distribution will begin at 11 a.m. All food given away is free.



Art & Soul: Annual Art Sale

Please join the Sword into Plowshares Gallery for their annual sale featuring creations by their artists at Art & Soul. The art sale will take place on Saturday, May 11th, 2019, from 12 noon - 4 p.m. The event will take place 33 E. Adams St., Detroit, MI 48226. The gallery is located at Central United Methodist Church, 23 East Adams Street. Our very own Morningsider Twaina Odom will have featured work on display!



Art piece created by Twaina Odom.

Bethany Lutheran Church, Thank You!

The Morningside Community Association would like to take out the time to give a special thanks to one of our biggest community supporters, Bethany Lutheran Church. From being the host of countless events such as our General Community Meetings, to Christmas celebrations over the years and just being a pillar for Morningside and all the surrounding communities, we would not be able to do what we do if it wasn't for Bethany. Please stay up to date with the wide variety of services Bethany provides to the community by following their Facebook page at: Bethany Lutheran-Detroit, and their website: bethanydetroit.org.



Community Anchor, Bethany Lutheran Church, 11475 E. Outer Dr.



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P.O. Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224

The Monarch Club rooftop bar opening soon in downtown Detroit

Robert Allen | Detroit Free Press



It could be the best rooftop-bar view in Detroit: The Monarch Club opens May 11 atop the Metropolitan Building in the heart of downtown.

Outdoor patio areas flank both sides of the indoor, 13th-floor bar, with expansive sights that include Comerica Park to the north and the Hudson skyscraper construction project to the south.

"The building is in a great vantage point to downtown — you can kind of see it in a way you don't typically," said David Di Rita, principal with the Detroit-based Roxbury Group, which has redeveloped the building through a \$33 million project including the 110-room Element Detroit hotel.

It's anticipated to be the highest bar open to the public in downtown Detroit, with hours daily from 4 p.m to as late as midnight. It's accessed through elevators inside the building's main entrance, facing John R Street.

Di Rita said this will be a "club" in a traditional sense; don't expect a DJ blasting music from the rooftop.

"Our intention here is for this to be a bar where you can have a conversation," he said.