Jonathan Myrick Daniels

Keene Pilgrimage

"Here Am I, Send Me"

COMMEMORATION 2015
50TH ANNIVERSARY
CIVIL RIGHTS MARTYR
JONATHAN DANIELS

Other Jonathan Myrick Daniels Memorials in the U.S. and Abroad

This is only a partial list, for the full list, visit www.jonathandaniels50.org.

- All Saints Chapel, The University of the South, Sewanee, TN, stained glass window
- Canterbury Cathedral, England, listed in the Anglican Memorial Book of Heroes and Martyrs
- Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, St. John’s Memorial Chapel, Jonathan Daniels icon
- Hayneville, AL, Jonathan Daniels memorial plaque in the town square
- National Cathedral, Washington, DC, a sculpture of Jonathan will soon be displayed on the Human Rights porch
- St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC, stained glass window
- Trappist Monastery, Gethsemani, KY & Trinity Episcopal Church, Topsfield, MA, Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane sculpture by Walker Hancock in memory of Jonathan Daniels
- Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA, Jonathan Daniels Courtyard plaque and Jonathan Daniels arch in the barracks

Sponsored by:
St. James Episcopal Church
44 West St.
Keene, NH 03431

Visit www.stjameskeene.org for worship times and Jonathan Daniels annual special service in August.

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The Year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Jonathan Myrick Daniels on August 20, 1965 in Hayneville, Alabama at the height of the civil rights movement.

This brochure is intended to be a pilgrimage through the world of Jonathan Myrick Daniels in his hometown of Keene, NH.

There are many resources devoted to the legacy of Jonathan Daniels in the Keene area. Special Collections devoted to Jonathan Daniels are located at the Historical Society of Cheshire County and in the archives of the Mason Library at Keene State College.

Life of Jonathan Myrick Daniels

Jonathan was born on March 20, 1939 in Keene to Connie and Dr. Philip Daniels.

Graduated from Keene High School in 1957 and entered the Virginia Military Institute where he graduated valedictorian of his class in 1961. After a brief time as a graduate student at Harvard University, he decided to become an Episcopal priest when he experienced a renewal of faith during Easter services at the Church of the Advent in Boston.

Went south in March of 1965, answering the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s call for students and clergy to join him on what became the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to demand the right to vote for African Americans. Unlike many others, Jonathan stayed on in Alabama throughout that spring and summer to live with black families, to help register African American voters, and to integrate Episcopal churches.

Named a saint and martyr of the Episcopal Church in 1980 and with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of only two Americans listed in the Memorial Book of Heroes and Martyrs at the Canterbury Cathedral in England.

Beginning in 1991, the Episcopal Church celebrates Jonathan’s life and work annually on August 14th. St. James Episcopal Church of Keene has a special worship service on the Sunday close to that day when speakers discuss civil rights issues. Visit www.stjameskeene.org.

Grew up in Keene where he worshiped at First Congregational Church (now the United Church of Christ in Keene) as a child and at St. James Episcopal Church as a teenager.

Enrolled at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the fall of 1963, sponsored by his home parish, St. James Episcopal Church.

On August 14, 1965 Jonathan was arrested in Fort Deposit and jailed in the small town of Hayneville, Alabama. He along with several others, Roman Catholic priest Richard Morrisroe, Joyce Bailey, and SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) worker Ruby Sales were released from jail on August 20th. It being a hot summer day, they headed to a small store to buy a cold drink. Their entrance was blocked by deputy sheriff, Tom Coleman, who raised his shotgun threatening Ruby. Jon pushed her out of the way taking the shotgun blast himself. He died instantly.

His body was brought back to Keene and the funeral service was held at St James on August 24th. He is buried at the nearby Monadnock View Cemetery.

His epitaph reads: “Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)
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The sites listed mark the major milestones of his life in Keene as well as local memorials in his honor.

1. Born at Elliot Community Hospital (Now Elliot Center, Keene State College) 229 Main Street

2. Childhood home 67 Summer Street

3. Childhood church First Congregational Church (Now the United Church of Christ in Keene) 23 Central Square

4. Attended elementary school at Tilden School (Now Waldorf High School) 146 School Street

5. Attended Central Junior High School (replaced by Cheshire County Courthouse) 39 Winter Street

6. Studied at Keene High School (Former location of Keene Middle School) 17 Washington Street

7. Attended St. James Episcopal Church as a teenager Site of his funeral 44 West Street
All of the sites on this map are in easy walking distance from downtown except for #9 (Monadnock View Cemetery) and #12 (Jonathan Daniels School). The Monadnock View Cemetery is 2.3 miles from St. James Episcopal Church, and Jonathan Daniels School is 3 miles from the church. The school and the cemetery are 1 mile apart.

The graves of Jonathan Daniels and his parents are located in Section C of the Monadnock View Cemetery in Lot # 34 S 1/2. The entrance is off of Park Avenue opposite Olivo Road.

The 0.9 mile Jonathan Daniels Trail travels along the Ashuelot River.

In 1968 one of Keene’s elementary schools was named in Jonathan’s honor.