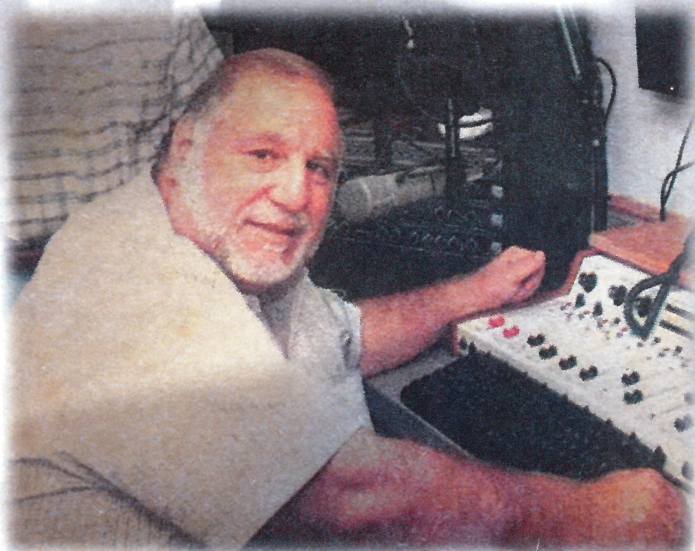


**A Broadcast
Sponsored By GOD**
for
Dr. Raymond A. Kassis



December 6, 1946



November 9, 2016

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Greater St. Paul Baptist Church

213 Stone Street

Cocoa, FL 32922

Rev. David E. Bryant, Sr., Pastor



Obituary



Dr. Raymond A. Kassis

Raymond Anthony Kassis was born in Miami, Florida to the late Anthony and Sarah Kassis. He graduated from Coral Gables High School and attended technical school in the same city. Ray started his radio career in 1964 when he joined the staff of radio stations **WMIE-AM** and **WEDR-FM** in Miami, Florida. At 19 years of age Ray was promoted to General Manager of **WEDR-FM** and held the position of the youngest General Manager of a major station in the United States. His first duty to perform as manager of **WEDR** was to change the format from Country and Western to Rhythm and Blues (urban Contemporary), a first for south Florida on the FM dial.

In 1968, Ray accepted the position of General Manager for Sudbrink Broadcasting's **KYED-FM** in Pasadena (Houston), Texas. He later became Vice President and managed Sudbrink's AM chain of stations in Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Baltimore. In 1975, Ray moved back to his native Florida where he purchased **WWBC-AM** in Cocoa, Florida.

In 1981, Ray founded National Christian Network, Inc. (NCN) transmitting radio and television through satellite, cable and terrestrial stations. As president and CEO, Ray produced and hosted over 200 episodes of the "*Amazing Grace*" television show, which was aired throughout the United States. Also in 1981, NCN filed for an FM station in Cocoa, received a Construction Permit, and then requested the call letters **WMIE-FM** to honor his beginning station. In 1989, Ray built **WCNO-FM** in Palm City, Florida, the last 100,000 watt FM station constructed in South Florida.

In 1990, Ray met Kimberly Holman and convinced her that radio needed more minorities in ownership and management. Together they founded Black Media Works, Inc. and with Kim as president, filed for **WJFP-FM** in Fort Pierce, Florida. **WJFP** signed on January 15, 1995 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. In 1996, Ray and Kimberly were married, and in 2000 they welcomed their daughter, Rayah Kortlandt Elisabeth.



Obituary



Dr. Raymond A. Kassis

Ray served as president of the Florida Repeater council, a non-profit service organization responsible for coordinating Amateur Radio repeaters throughout the state of Florida. He also served as the appointed Emergency Coordinator for the South Florida section of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Ray also coordinated Amateur Radio communications for the Red Cross, Brevard County shelters and other agencies.

Ray's remarkable passion and career for religious freedom in media stemmed from the reason his parents immigrated to the United States. They left their home country of Syria because of their belief in the right to religious freedom. Ray's outstanding lifelong commitment to this freedom has radiated through communities all over the country and has been the channel for hundreds of believers to transmit and receive expressions of the ministry. Raymond Anthony Kassis signed off the air on November 9, 2016; his spirit will live on through his wife Kimberly, daughter Rayah, Aunt Josephine (Brooklyn, NY), a host of cousins, two sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law and a multitude of radio station families and listeners.

WWBC-AM Cocoa, Florida

WMIE-FM Cocoa, Florida

WCNO-FM Palm City, Florida

WJFP-FM Fort Pierce, Florida

KAYT-FM Alexandria, Louisiana

WRRJ-FM Cocoa Beach, Florida

WRMQ Orlando, Florida

