



Mark L. Kelly

January 8, 1923 - February 1, 2020

Mark L. Kelly, age 97, of Fonda, Iowa died on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Loring Hospital in Sac City, Iowa.

Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Fonda. Burial will be in the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Fonda. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the CHURCH. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be given to St. Jude Children's Hospital: 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, Tennessee 38105 or UnityPoint Hospice: 214 S 25th St. Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Mark was born on January 8th, 1925 to T.D and Tress Kelly. He was baptized into the Catholic faith at O.L.G.C. church and continued his Catholic education at Loras College in Dubuque.

He married Regina (O'Brien) and had three children, Deb, Tim and Joe.

A man of talents and endless enthusiasm, he believed his greatest achievement was his family. In his final days, he was surrounded by a constant presence of not only children, but grandchildren, great grandchildren,

nieces and nephews, all of whom had a special and cherished relationship with him.

Mark's name was synonymous with golf. A steward of the land in the field and on the fairway, there are few (successful) area golfers whose stance hadn't been guided into place with his keen eye and a gentle tap from his club. Until just a few summers ago, he routinely beat golfers half as young – or younger – than himself and is one of the few golfers who can boast multiple holes-in-one.

A text from a lifelong friend shared a text with the family. "I'm sure Heaven's thrilled. Your Dad was a class-act and will be missed. I picture him on a golf course, happy and with your Mom."

Nothing made him prouder than watching – and sharing – the athletic exploits of his grandchildren and great grandchildren, frequently recounting their exploits to audiences both willing and captive. Shortly before passing, Mark was able to experience several grandparent's milestones: a Walker-Walker-Walker trifecta on the basketball court, and great granddaughter presenting him with her first championship gymnastics medal as they listened to the announcer comment that the 9.9s he was reading was a rare moment in his career.

Mark was preceded in death by his wife, Regina, parents Daniel and Teresa (Tres) (Lilly), siblings Robert, Thomas (Ed), Charles, Josephine Bartley, Ellen (Annie) Curran, Katherine McCabe and Liz Baskerville. Left to cherish his memory are his children Tim Kelly, wife Tammy and children Zack and Jenny, Deb Gruntorad, husband Joe and children Courtney Walker, Kelly Simpson, Kristen Peterson, Erin and Ellen Gruntorad; and son Joe. Twelve great grandchildren were lucky enough to spend lots of time with him.

Mark was a lifelong supporter of the American Cancer Society and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He noted that as the beneficiary of a long, healthy life, it was his duty to support the youngest who were struggling with cancer. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to his preferred charities or UnityPoint Home Care and Hospice.

Dapper and charming, Mark was known for his sharp sense of humor and was always funny, poignant and knew that life's deeper truths always require a laugh. And a bowl of ice cream. His memory will live on in the hearts of his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and those who knew him well.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Zion Catholic Cemetery

Fonda, IA 50540

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church -- Fonda
513 North Main Street
Fonda, IA 50540

Funeral Mass

FEB 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church -- Fonda
513 North Main Street
Fonda, IA 50540

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mark L. Kelly*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - February 04, 2020 at 06:07 PM

ML

“ *Mary Margaret Lange lit a candle in memory of Mark L. Kelly*



Mary Margaret Lange - February 06, 2020 at 08:45 PM

CB

Just got to know your father a couple of years ago. He and my father battled every Monday on the Senior tour for years. Between your father and my dad nobody could beat them over the years. Hopefully right now their teeing it up in heaven

craig boyd - February 12, 2020 at 02:32 PM

JA

“ Dear Deb and Family,
I'm sorry to hear the passing of Mark Kelly he was a great man and he will be deeply missed by others. From the photos and videos that I saw on Facebook he really enjoyed spending time with his family. Grandparents have a special place in a child's heart and so forth. May his memories live within each one of you because each one of you carry a special piece of him don't ever forget that.

Sincerely
Jayme

Jayme - February 04, 2020 at 11:04 PM

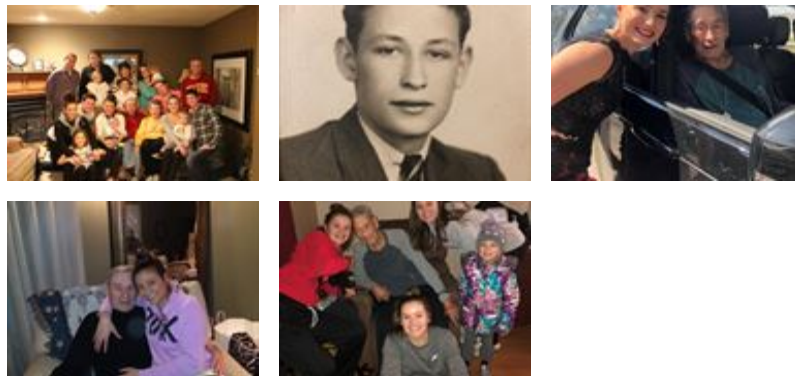
PM

“ Another of Mark's talents was his wonderful singing voice. I have such great memories of accompanying him at so many events. I was so lucky to call him a friend.
He'll be happy to see Jean again. Deb, Tim, and Joe - I am so sorry for your loss.

Peggy McCartan - February 04, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - February 04, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - February 04, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ Love, hugs & prayers: Trish, Shannon, & Jill purchased the Healing Tears - Yellow and White for the family of Mark L. Kelly.



Love, hugs & prayers: Trish, Shannon, & Jill - February 04, 2020 at 03:19 PM



“ Mary And Craig Farrell lit a candle in memory of Mark L. Kelly



Mary and Craig Farrell - February 04, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers to his family.



Leigh Schultz - February 04, 2020 at 09:07 AM

KR

“ We will miss you neighbor! I remember great golf and a great voice. One year when a group of us were Christmas caroling at his house he sang Oh Holy Night. Brought us to tears.

Kate and Randy - February 03, 2020 at 09:13 PM

PG

“ Peace to all the family of Mark.He is now with Jesus & his wife, Jean & all the other angels in heaven. Prayers for all.
Lary & Patty Gunville
Storm Lake, Iowa



Patty Gunville - February 03, 2020 at 07:29 PM

SM

“ Steph&Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Mark L. Kelly



Steph&Sharon Mickelson - February 03, 2020 at 05:44 PM

JC

“ Mark blessed us through sharing his gift of song. Thank you Mark for singing at our wedding. Mark and Jean were great hosts. Our sympathy his family. Larry and Jeanne Calkins

Jeanne Calkins - February 03, 2020 at 05:10 PM

RS

“ To Mark's family,
I think back fondly on the weddings and funerals for which Mark sang and I accompanied. He was so talented with the most beautiful voice. Jean and Mark were great neighbors, witty and funny. Such a pleasure. May the Peace of God be with you all now and in the days ahead. Randy and Marilyn

Randy and Marilyn Schmitt - February 03, 2020 at 05:10 PM

RS

“ Randy And Marilyn Schmitt lit a candle in memory of Mark L. Kelly



Randy and Marilyn Schmitt - February 03, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mark L. Kelly.



February 03, 2020 at 04:53 PM

PC

“ I always so enjoyed visiting with Mark.He was like an extremely tall leprechaun.....full of a little sass,...a little blarney.....a good story....and a twinkle in his eyes when he smiled. And when he talked he used all of that Irish charm.....and you ended up laughing, too! God Bless and keep you, Mark Kelly.

Pegi Cavanaugh - February 03, 2020 at 03:18 PM