



## Michael Lee Kelly

August 14, 1946 - January 21, 2021

### Obituary

Michael was born August 14th, 1946 in Glendale, California to Mary Ellen and Hobart Proctor Kelly. The first of four beautiful children followed by Timothy, Mary Denise, and William. Michael graduated with the class of 1964 from Pater Noster High school, Los Angeles. From 1967 to 1969 during the Vietnam War he was with the 11th Bravo in 9th Infantry. Michael graduated from California State University Los Angeles in 1971. Michael was a eucharistic minister and lecturer at St. Leo the Great church in San Jose for many years. Michael also volunteered at the Veterans Supportive Services Agency, non-profit from 2014 until 2021. In 2016 Michael received the first ever Veteran of the Year award from the Santa Clara County National Guard and Veterans Affairs Commission, in recognition of outstanding civic and community services. He was preceded in death by both mother & father as well as sister Denise, brother Timothy, and daughter Kerry. He is survived by wife Elizabeth, daughter Shannon DeFino, Brother Bill, Grand children, Savannah Leigh Petrovich, and Shawn Michael Day, Great-grandchildren Kamden Michael Day, and Blair Wynter Petrovich and numerous nieces and nephews, extended family and friends who he loved very much.

He will be missed by all so much.

Dear friends, Thank you all for the wonderful love and support I have received. Mike Kelly really loved all of you. EVERYONE who wishes may come to the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery at 5810 Midway Rd, Dixon, CA 95620 on February 11th for the graveside ceremony. Sadly, due to COVID restrictions, attendance at Chapel services the evening of February 10th is very limited. I wish with all my heart we did not have to limit attendance for the indoor service. The Live-streaming option is set up for that reason. We can't even fit the entire family. Please, Just click on the published links that appear under Michael's obituary on the Sacred Space Memorial website at the time of services. That is the best way to participate safely.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Michael Lee Kelly, please visit our floral store.

# Tribute Wall

ES

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Michael Lee Kelly.  
Plant a Tree

---

**Expression of Sympathy** - May 31, 2022 at 09:21 AM

RJ

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Michael Lee Kelly by  
Robert M. Morton, Jr. . Plant a TreeMichaelThanks for being a  
Great Friend as well as my Brother in Law.God Speed my Friend,  
until we meet again . . . .Robert M. Morton, Jr.

---

**Robert M. Morton, Jr.** - May 31, 2022 at 09:21 AM

LI

“ I miss you so much. You will always be in my heart and thoughts. I  
love you more than you could have known

---

**Liz** - April 28, 2021 at 10:48 AM

LK

*My Darling Michael, It's been two and 1/2 years since you went to Heaven and I still can't seem to let go of my regrets. So many things I wish I had been better at. I wish I had been better at everything. Shannon and I still talk almost everyday which helps me so much and Edio and All the kids and family are wonderful. Bill and Cindy are wonderful. Cindy has been very ill but pulled through. Bill and Cindy have one grandchild and now a new one on the way. Jenna and Andrew are blessed and a blessing. Bill and Cindy love there new home in Loveland. all miss you and Kerry so much. Sometimes I can barely get through the day without more tears. I try so hard to move forward here in Arizona, but it really is miserable and the meetings and people are just not so great. You would have been miserable here too. I struggle a lot to keep up with the house/yard. Such a nightmare. Unless it's cactus or palm trees (both of which I dislike) there are few nice option for gardening. Turns out I picked a crappy house with a pure Western exposure. Never mind the Scorpions and bugs! I kept thinking you needed to move to help the depression from Kerry passing. Boy was I stupid. I know now you died of a broken heart and wanted to be with Kerry and make sure she was O.K. I'm not sure when but I WILL get back to California and as close to you and the kids as possible. I desperately want to hold you again and be with you. I don't feel like I fit anywhere without you. By the way Uncle Bill is going strong almost 102 years. He has been wonderful and we did great on the Washington D.C. trip. He was/is so found of you.*

---

**Liz Kelly** - July 29, 2023 at 05:26 AM

“MICHAEL LEE KELLY For those of you who may not know me, I'm Bill Kelly, Mike's youngest brother, but he was much more than a brother to me. He was also my Father figure, my closest friend growing up and the best man at my wedding almost 36 years ago. A famous writer once said "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." If that's true, then Mike made a truly wonderful life! He was the most giving person I've ever known. And judging by all the nodding heads I saw in the Chapel, many of you agree. If you were there, or watched via live stream, I know Mike made a positive impact in your lives as well. Mike's impact on my life was nothing short of profound. He was the "rock" of our Family for as long as I can remember. Very early in life, Mike embraced the role of the oldest sibling who looked out for his siblings; my brother, my sister and I, and of all our cousins too. When I was two years old, and Mike was fifteen, our Father died unexpectedly at the age of 41. Of course our mother was devastated. She had only been a housewife, never driven a car or even had any kind of job. She suffered a nervous breakdown dealing with the loss of our Dad. At 15, Mike supported our family of five, working at Shopping Bag, the local grocery store until our Mother recovered. What 15 year old kid does that? A very SPECIAL 15 year old kid; MICHAEL LEE KELLY does. Our Mother recovered, and went on to be one of the strongest women ever, but Mike never stopped taking care of us all. He was my go to, and he always took time for me, from taking me with him on a "double date", when he, Carol and her little sister Sandy went miniature golfing, to sending me on my first airline flight; a visit to spend time in San Bruno. One of my earliest childhood memories was one night right before their wedding, Mike was getting ready to take Carol home and I would not stop crying. I wouldn't tell why at first, but when Mike came home, I finally fessed up and said, "I was crying because Carol was taking Mike away from us". I also remember the day he returned from Fort Ord with Heidi, one of the coolest dogs ever. Soon after that, my brother Mike introduced me to one of the loves of my life, the game of baseball. He was my first coach and bought my first Carl Yastremski autographed baseball glove. That was a HUGE deal for a little kid like me; and still is today

*(even more). Mike also gave my first two-wheel bicycle to me for my birthday and taught me to ride it before he left for Vietnam. In Vietnam, Mike served the 11 Bravo, 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta, where he was a "Tunnel Rat", and rose to the rank of specialist. Upon return from service, Mike graduated from Pasadena City College and the California State University at Los Angeles. He was an account manager for National Cash Register (NCR) Company where he accepted a promotion and relocation to Dayton, Ohio. I was a teenager who didn't think I needed him anymore; I was wrong. Mike later returned to California where he met the love of his life, his wife Liz, whom he married in 1990 (recent 30 yr anniversary). Mike then worked as a Senior Buyer for Pemstar, and retired from Flextronis in September of 2013, after working as a Materials Program Manager/Planner for 14 years. After retirement and until his passing, Mike passionately volunteered as a Case Manager for the Veterans' Supportive Services Agency, and in 2016 was appropriately named the first ever "Veteran of the Year" from the Santa Clara County National Guard and Veterans' Affairs Commission, for outstanding civic and community service. For many years, he was a eucharistic minister and lecturer at St. Leo the Great Church in San Jose. Mike tirelessly supported countless through the Alcoholics Anonymous program for over 30 years, and gave so much of himself to so many of us in so many ways. I will be forever grateful for him being in my life. Rest ea*

---

**Bill Kelly** - February 12, 2021 at 06:18 PM

LK

“ Thank you so much Bob.

---

**Liz Kelly** - February 12, 2021 at 11:34 AM

RJ

“ Michael, Thank you for taking care of my sister, Liz. Thank you for being of Great Service to the Veteran Community, and Thank You for helping me during some of the most challenging times of my life. You have always been a great friend, and it has been an honor to have you as my Brother in Law these past 30 years. God Speed my Friend

---

**Robert M. Morton, Jr.** - February 11, 2021 at 12:39 PM

MG

“ Mike was a good man and will be greatly missed. We have known him for over 10 years and met him at St. Leos where he was a lector. He brought my father communion every Friday when he could no longer make it to church because of his illness. My father looked forward to his visits and always sparked up when Mike walked into the room. Later when my father passed away, I asked Mike to read a passage at my father's funeral as he was a great reader. He graciously obliged. My brother and I continued going to St. Leos and every week after church, we would visit with Mike and chitchat about sports, and what he was planning to fix at his house as it seemed he always had a project at home. First he would always say that he had to go get his frappuccino at Starbucks which he said was his Sunday treat. Sometimes, pre-covid we would go to breakfast with a couple of other people, Victor Mendoza and Carolina Gomez. We will miss his beautiful smile. Rest in Peace my friend! Maria and Carlos Gonzales

---

**Maria Gonzales** - February 10, 2021 at 04:55 PM

LF

“ In memory of my beloved brother Michael Lee Kelly. There is so much I wish I got to thank you for. Until we meet again. We love and miss you so much.  
Love, Your Brother William and Family

---

**Love, Your Brother William and Family** - February 10, 2021 at 01:50 PM

BC

“ You always hear that you should be sure to cherish every moment you have with people who are so special in your lives because you never know when it will be your last moment with them. Although, as the years went on, we rarely had the chance to spend time with each other, I will always truly remember and cherish the bond Mike and I started so many years ago when he stood and defended our country. You’ll be missed by many my friend but especially your wife Liz and truly your daughter, Shannon.

---

**Bob Cosley** - February 09, 2021 at 09:46 PM