



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



“ *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

“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

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

TR

“ Mike, I will never forget everything that you have done for me and the great bond we had together

Tom Roberts

Tom Roberts - February 08, 2021 at 12:31 PM

CS

“ Bill-hugs and prayers for you and your family.
Charlotte & Jeff Smith

Charlotte & Jeff Smith - February 06, 2021 at 07:33 PM