



Thomas John Kelly

October 23, 1943 - February 21, 2026

Thomas "Tom" Kelly

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Thomas "Tom" Kelly, age 82, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2026. Tom was born in Braham, Minnesota, and shortly after moved to Faribault, Minnesota, where he was raised. He was the oldest of nine children born to Clarence and Ester Kelly.

At age 18, Tom joined the U.S. Army and served as a firefighter during his time in Nancy, France. In 1971, he married Marjorie (Marge) Velishek. Together they shared 45 years of marriage, raising their daughters Jennifer and Keisa, in their home in Chanhassen, Minnesota. Tom worked as a machinist at Minnesota Rubber and served for 20 years on the Chanhassen Volunteer Fire Department, where he achieved Chief and proudly drove the ladder truck and loved telling his firefighter stories.

Tom had a passion for photography and was rarely without a camera, documenting family memories, wildlife, and their extensive travels. After retiring at age 55, Tom and Marjorie moved to Arkansas, where they lived for nearly 25 years and built many lasting friendships. Marjorie passed away in 2017 after a battle with cancer.

Later, Tom found companionship with Sharon Dugstad and shared nearly nine years of laughter, love, and adventures, dividing their time between Chanhassen and Arkansas. They eventually settled in Minnesota to be closer to family as Tom battled cancer.

He is survived by his wife Sharon Dugstad and his children: Jennifer (Scott) Shoemaker; Keisa (Mike) Truax; Michelle (Mike) Scott; Cheryl (Jay) Merritt; and Scott (Jinnie) DeMars. He is also survived by his grandchildren: TJ (Brianna) Merritt, Stephanie Merritt, Megan O'Byrne, Tristin (Celeste) O'Byrne, Chris (Chelsea) Shoemaker, Nic (Cheyenne) Shoemaker, Finn Shoemaker and Lucas Truax; great-grandchildren; and Sharon's children Shanda Shannon and Cully Przymus and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie; his parents, Clarence and Ester Kelly; his sister, Barb Kelly; and many brothers- and sisters-in-law.

A funeral service for Tom will be held on March 12, 2026, at Washburn-McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel, 7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

Visitation: 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Service: 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 p.m.

Interment: 2:00 p.m. at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Memorial Service

MAR 12. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Thank you for your service! -Chanhassen Fire



Chanhassen Fire - March 06 at 03:06 PM

MG

“ Lots of memories of Tom not only being my Uncle/God Father but he also doubled as Santa Clause!! I remember when I found out Tom was actually Santa at Christmas! I thought I had just found out some inside CIA secret works 🤔



molly Gray - February 27 at 04:24 PM

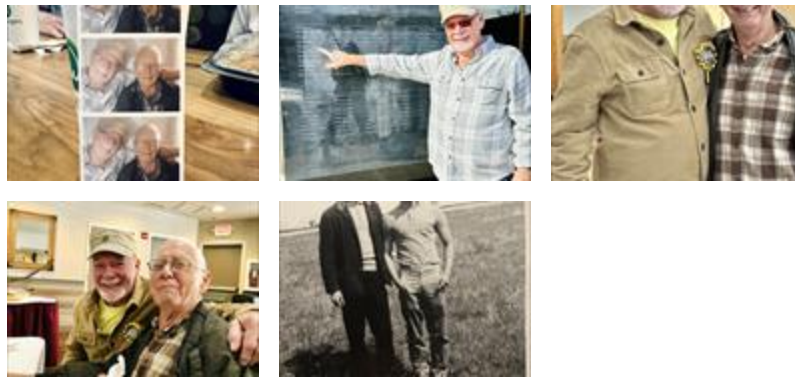
MH

“ Tom was a great friend to us and everyone he knew. He had two wonderful helpmates, Marge and Sharon. Tom loved to travel and so did Lee and I, several times when we were coming or going and they were doing the same, we would meet across the country and share a meal, then complete our trips. Tom loved to collect memorabilia from around the world and was proud of his collection keep in a walk in vault. I will always remember his smile, kindness and friendship, Lee will be waiting to shake his hand when they meet in Heaven. My condolences to his family, he will truly be missed. Mildred Hampton.

Mildred Hampton - February 27 at 03:21 PM

JH

“ Friendships like these are rare, but last a lifetime ❤️



Jordi Harding - February 26 at 05:42 PM

FB

“ Family of James Buxton purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Thomas John Kelly.



Family of James Buxton - February 26 at 05:36 PM

FB

“ Family of James Buxton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas John Kelly.

Family of James Buxton - February 26 at 05:36 PM

MO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Megan O'Byrne - February 26 at 04:45 PM

JS

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Jen Shoemaker - February 26 at 04:19 PM

JS

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Jen Shoemaker - February 26 at 04:17 PM