



Mr. Thomas P. Kelly of Elgin

November 27, 1933 - December 30, 2021

Mr. Thomas P. Kelly, 88, of Elgin, Illinois.

Tom was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and married his late wife, Shirley, in 1955. They had two children Kathy and Michael. Tom worked for 12 years at US Steel, South Works in the Electrical Division. In 1963 he joined the Chicago Police Department. Though he worked in many districts throughout the city, at some point, he notably served in every rank in the 1st District.

In 1971-1972 he was detailed to Northwestern University where he was enrolled at the Traffic Institute, Center for Public Safety. That year he was one of about 5 dozen police officers selected from major US and international cities. They studied in an intensive police staff and command program and he maintained long distance friendships with these officers for many years. Patrolmen, Sargent, Lieutenant, Captain, District Commander and Assistant Deputy Superintendent-Operational Services. A cops cop. During his years of service he received 2 Superintendents Awards of Merit, 2 Unit Meritorious Awards, and 10 Honorable Mentions.

He and Shirley lived on the South Side until his retirement. He was a good neighbor, the guy who shoveled half the block's sidewalks and alley. He volunteered for many years with Kiwanis of Hyde Park and Kiwanis

International. In retirement, he and his wife loved traveling throughout the US, seeing sights and visiting their dozens of cousins. They spent their summers in WI where he enjoyed hosting their friends and piloting his pontoon. Tom was a master joke teller with an acute memory for detail. He'd memorize joke books so he'd have a joke for every occasion. Often with a perfect Irish brogue or a Nordic accent, which he picked up from his Swedish father in law.

An avid weightlifter since his teens, he continued to stay fit by weightlifting and daily exercise into his early 80's. Genealogy was his major hobby in retirement. It combined two things he loved. Detailed detective work and connecting and reconnecting to his large extended family. He was a lifelong White Sox fan. The last two years he said he couldn't keep track of the new players. Though as recently as last year he was still able to recite Sox starting lineups from the 1940's and 50's. He was a putterer; a fixer of things. There wasn't a tool he didn't have-or have 5 or 10 of! Tom loved spending time with his grandchildren, their spouses and his great grandchildren. They could do no wrong and gave him so much joy. Most importantly, he was an excellent caregiver to Shirley in the last years of her life. Tom lead a full, rich and honorable life. Formidable, but fair. Intelligent, generous, honest and loving. He will be missed.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 6th from 10:30 A.M. till 11:30 A.M. at Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner of Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, IL. 60169. Interment to follow at St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery in Palatine.

In lieu of flowers donations to St Jude Children's Research Hospital (https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=header-btn-donate-now) would be greatly appreciated.

This Life Tributes page has been created to make it easy for Family and

Friends to share memories, photos and videos.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169.

For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express your condolences to the family, please click on the link above and you can leave the family a message, with the share a memory link. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card to the Family, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o The Family. We will gladly forward it on.

Cemetery Details

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Cemetery in Palatine

1185 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067
(847) 397-3284
<http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/locations.php?cem=38>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services, and Cemetery Memorials
2550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
(847) 752-6444
ross@morizzofuneralhome.com
<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I found a Sun-Times clipping of when Tom was on the cover.



Mike Mattson - March 16, 2023 at 04:50 PM

KB

Wow. Thanks Mike.
And right above 3 beers a day....haha.

Kathleen Bukowski - July 20, 2023 at 03:11 PM



“ Mr. Thomas P. Kelly of Elgin

November 04, 2022 at 06:54 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Mattson - January 08, 2022 at 11:16 PM

MM

*Tom Kelly made commander of 012 (Monroe) around 1978. This is a photo of him and my dad, Karl Mattson (in uniform). Tom Kelly and my dad were partners in 001 throughout the 60's and into the 70's. They remained friends for many years. I remember Tom and Shirley and Michael coming out to our place in Rome City IN, Bass Lake IN and Bloomer WI for vacations.
Very, very saddened to hear of his passing.
Michael and Kimberly Mattson*

Michael Mattson - January 08, 2022 at 11:24 PM

KB

Mike & Kim-so sorry we lost touch with your family over the years. I sadly read of your Dads passing just recently in an old FOP magazine. My best to your sweet Mom. Kathy

Kathleen Bukowski - January 09, 2022 at 10:57 AM

CP

*“ Sorry to hear about Me Kelly passing away. I always enjoyed talking to him about our days on the Chicago Police Department whenever I saw him
He will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him*

Charlie Pawlowski - January 06, 2022 at 05:53 PM

MF

*“ Our sincere condolences to all family and friends of Tom Kelly. He is legendary in kindness and service to others. The pictures posted here are very nice to see a span of his time here on earth. May he be re-united with all those he loved that have gone before.
Bud & Marge Podrazik*



Margaret Podrazik (friend of family) - January 06, 2022 at 02:03 PM

FN

“ Frank & Tom's Rzonca nieces and nephews purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Mr. Thomas P. Kelly of Elgin.



Frank & Tom's Rzonca nieces and nephews - January 05, 2022 at 02:35 PM



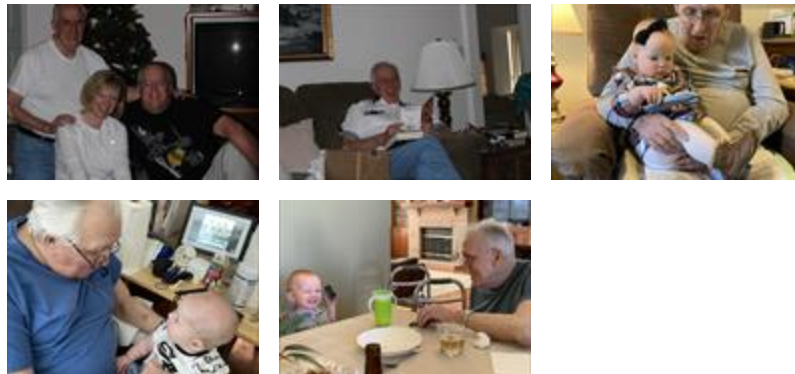
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Brian Bukowski - January 04, 2022 at 10:40 PM



“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Brian Bukowski - January 04, 2022 at 10:06 PM

SC

Shirley and Tom once came out to California to meet his relatives out here. Since my name and address was the only information that they had, they contacted me. I knew that I had family in Chicago, but that's all that I knew.

It was a great experience as he brought along a lot of Kelly family information that I wasn't aware of.

Although my older siblings might have known this, since I was the youngest of Maggie and Jimmy Kelly, none of it was passed on to me. Since they are all now deceased, my chances of ever learning about my Chicago family were non-existent.

I shall always appreciate info that I received from and about my newly-found family.

I have a few pictures of them. If you would like some, I'll send them on to you if you'll give me your address and email address.

Shirley Kelly Contreras

Shirley Contreras - January 08, 2022 at 12:43 AM

MA

“ *ADS Kelly was a great boss !*

Michelle Anderson - January 04, 2022 at 11:58 AM

AP

“ *Tom was 'old-school' CPD as we knew him from his initial days in 001.*

He remained a gentleman throughout his career and will be missed by all whose lives he touched along the way.

Rest in peace kind sir, your work here is done.

You will always be remembered as that revered product as "Chicago's Finest."



Al Piantkowski - January 04, 2022 at 11:19 AM

GR

“ As a 'somewhat' troublesome kid growing up. I always looked to Uncle Tom with admiration and respect. He had this way where I knew he was a gentle giant, but he could bring down the hammer if needed. When we'd visit, I would always sneak down to the basement to check out his weight set. I wondered if I could ever be as strong as he was.

Way to go Tom, you finished strong. God be with you in paradise Uncle.

Gary Rzonca - January 03, 2022 at 07:44 PM

KB

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Kathleen Bukowski - January 02, 2022 at 08:47 PM

MI

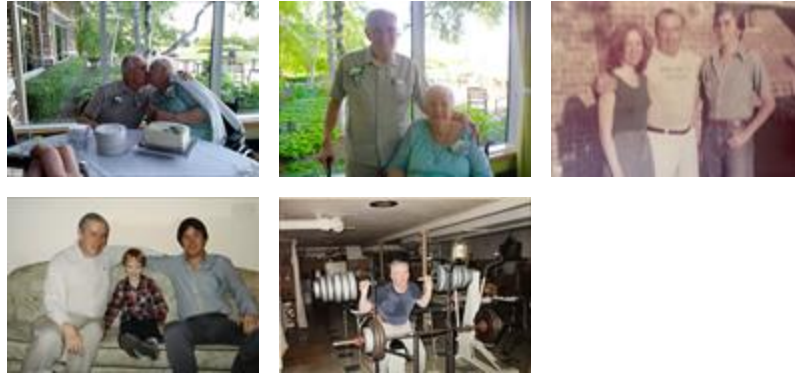
“ 8 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



mike - January 02, 2022 at 05:16 PM

KB

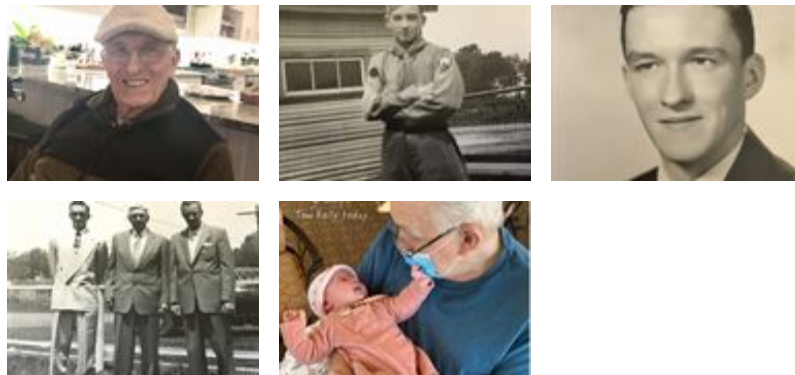
“ 5 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Kathleen Bukowski - January 02, 2022 at 03:50 PM



“ 62 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 02, 2022 at 12:26 PM