



Mr Michael Shawn Kelly

November 26, 1964 - August 5, 2018

Michael Kelly, 53, of Beebe, passed away Sunday, August 5. He was born in Morenci, Arizona, to Robert and Jean Kelly. He is survived by his parents, brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Lisa Kelly, of Springdale, his sweetheart, Stacy Hudson, nieces, Casey Kirby (Tim), and Miranda Kelly. Visitation will be at Powell Funeral

Home, Searcy, on Wednesday, August 8, from 5:00 7:00 p.m. Services will be conducted on Thursday, August 9, at 1:00 p.m. at Powell Funeral Home Chapel.

His love of life and family ran deep. As a graduate of Harding University with Bachelor and Master degrees, he taught English at ASU Beebe for more than 20 years. He loved his students who in return loved him. His kindness and encouraging nature were appreciated by colleagues and students alike. Outside the classroom he was an avid follower of the Texas Rangers Baseball Team, enjoyed backpacking the Ouachita Trail, and liked the challenges of major home projects.

His bright smile and friendly personality was a happy influence on us all.

Cemetery Details

White County Memorial Gardens

Eastline Road
Searcy, AR 72143

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Searcy)
2602 W. Beebe-Capps Expy
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 268-7220
searcy@powellfuneralhome.net
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Funeral Service

AUG 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

NN

“ He asked to be called “Mr. Kelly”—not professor, not doctor—though he’d earned every title. Humility was his philosophy, and he lived it by placing the spotlight on his students instead of himself. I met him after returning from military service, having just lost my mother. I’d moved to Searcy with more weight than words could carry. At ASU, I signed up for English I. That course changed my life.

I took every class Mr. Kelly offered after that. He taught English, yes—but in truth, he taught understanding: how to listen, how to feel, how to make meaning from silence. He had a way of bridging literature and philosophy as if they were born of the same fire. He didn’t just teach the mechanics of writing—he taught how to write from the soul.

He helped me find mine.

Some educators shape your grammar.

Mr. Kelly shaped my life.

I didn’t know he passed back in 2018.

But knowing now... the world feels colder.

Still, I carry his warmth.

Nathan Nicks - July 20, 2025 at 03:47 AM



“ I first met Michael back in the 80s at Harding University. We had several classes together and immediately bonded as friends. I'm not an outgoing person but Michael had a way of making you feel that you had been friends all your life. After graduation, we lost touch, but, amazingly, we would always find each other in obscure places over the years and get caught up on life. My last encounter with him was in a grocery store in Beebe a few years ago. I didn't realize it would be my last. I will greatly miss Michael. I always considered him a good friend and always looked forward to our next meeting. I pray for God's blessings upon his family and friends for peace and comfort with his passing. The world is a lesser place without him.

David Koty - April 23, 2019 at 11:45 PM

BN

“ Thank you, everyone, for your thoughts, memories, comments and condolences concerning our loss of Michael, my nephew. He was always charming, even as a child, and a special man. We miss him so much. His aunt Barbara.

Barbara S Newsom - November 26, 2018 at 03:34 PM

FM

What happened to him? He was the love of my life for 3 years??

Farrah Mcgill - July 08, 2024 at 09:47 PM

FM

It was the year 2,000

Farrah Mcgill - July 08, 2024 at 09:48 PM



“ *Mr. Kelly was one of the best teachers that I ever had. I thoroughly enjoyed his teaching method. I have used his insight over the years in many different projects. He will be missed. May the peace of Our Father be with you always.*

Melanie Tenison Smith - August 15, 2018 at 02:53 PM

KM

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Kathleen Vanderpool Manning - August 09, 2018 at 01:52 PM

KM

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Kathleen Vanderpool Manning - August 09, 2018 at 01:51 PM

KM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Kathleen Vanderpool Manning - August 09, 2018 at 01:49 PM

KM

“ *Kathleen Vanderpool Manning lit a candle in memory of Mr Michael Shawn Kelly*



Kathleen Vanderpool Manning - August 09, 2018 at 01:44 PM

KM

“ *I will never forget Michael! While growing up, our family visited Searcy, staying with my Aunt Claudette Jones for half the summer weeks. I hung out with Michael, my cousin, Angela Jones, Billy White, Mark Story, Carmen Kelley, and we had so much fun as kids! My memories with him will be forever cherished. Thank you, Michael, for all the great times, the laughter, and love you brought into my life. Most of all, thank you for your friendship. May your spirit continue to live inside of our hearts, bringing us joy.*

Kathleen Vanderpool Manning - August 09, 2018 at 01:44 PM

PB

“ *I was so blessed to know Michael and enjoy his great smile and wonderful personality. He will be greatly missed but always with us in spirit.*
Pam Burke



Pam Burke - August 09, 2018 at 12:57 PM

TL

“ Mr. Kelly was a wonderful teacher. I enjoyed his classes and he always made sure that we would have an interesting class. One of the funny memories of Michael is when he was running late for class he came in the room at a fast walk with his cup of coffee in hand. He started talking to us and I could not quite put my finger on what was different, until he smiled and said "i forgot to put my teeth in" while the class got a good laugh out of his forgetfulness, it did not bother him at all. He never missed a beat. I will remember him forever, and always be grateful that I had the chance to meet him and consider him as my friend.
Rest in peace my friend.
Theresa Larkins

Theresa Larkins - August 08, 2018 at 06:52 PM

DL

“ Dr. Douglas and Theresa Larkins purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Mr Michael Shawn Kelly.



Dr. Douglas and Theresa Larkins - August 08, 2018 at 06:39 PM

WB

“ Hi Bob & Jean....I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember Michael & Steve when you lived in Morenci, Arizona. You were all such a blessing to our lives. The untimely death of a child is difficult to comprehend. My mom--Ella Marie Brooks & I (Wayne Brooks) pray that you and Michael's family will be comforted by God during this difficult time.

---Wayne Brooks - P.O. Box 16407 - Lubbock, Tx 79490

---Ella Marie Brooks - 3786 Golf Course Rd. - Thatcher, Arizona 85552

Wayne Brooks - August 08, 2018 at 12:05 PM

DH

Michael was one of my roommates during our semester together in Florence, Italy. He was just the best guy to be around. He was always smiling and laughing. He was so clever with a quick wit. Every time I go into the Harding bookstore I think he will be in there stocking the shelves. What a sad loss, I extend my sympathies to the family. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Dave Hull - August 09, 2018 at 10:01 PM

KM

“ so sorry for your loss. He was my professor at ASU, I remember him coming in late, he had his hat on sideways and acting crazy, I thought what in the world have I got myself into lol He was always encouraging me. Im an older student and I remember him clearly expressing to me that no matter what I needed to walk when I graduated, because i needed to go through that process. so I did and as I passed him I smiled so big, and he smiled back at me. Ill never forget him.



Kim Merriman - August 08, 2018 at 11:25 AM

JJ

“ *Michael was in my home many times because of his connection with my children. I will always remember his "can do" attitude in any challenge before him. He had such a positive outlook on life. Jerry Jones*

Jerry Jones - August 08, 2018 at 10:46 AM

AB

“ *Addie Banks lit a candle in memory of Mr Michael Shawn Kelly*



Addie Banks - August 08, 2018 at 06:59 AM

SC

“ *Stacy Hudson and Jacob Craven purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Mr Michael Shawn Kelly.*



Stacy Hudson and Jacob Craven - August 07, 2018 at 05:46 PM