



William S Kelley

July 8, 1936 - April 10, 2016

William (Bill) Sterling Kelley, 79, was born in Kensal, North Dakota on July 8, 1936 to David Allison Walker and Christina Emma Vick-Farnsworth. He passed away on April 10, 2016 at Citizen Memorial Hospital. Bill was raised on a farm in North Dakota where he had a special interest in horses and helping his father shear sheep. Because of his physical stature, he was soon nicknamed "Shorty." After finishing a couple of years of high school, he left to serve his country overseas. Upon returning to the United States, he pursued a career as a painter and carpenter. In 1958 he married the love of his life, Ann, and shortly after, they relocated to Denver, CO where he began his career as a car salesman. After having four children and 6 years together, they relocated to Waynesville, MO. Bill had a passion for collecting die-cast cars, gardening yard work, barbecuing (pork steak), card playing, storytelling, and fishing every chance he got. He earned the name "Papa Mutt" by his grandchildren who adored him. He was an avid sports enthusiast and he loved watching baseball, football, and wrestling at the Chase. Bill will always be remembered as a man with a big heart. He spent much of his life helping others in need, even if he had a bit of a reputation for being a prankster. Regardless, he was a man who brought light to the darkness and helped others laugh through the good times and the bad. Preceding him in death was his wife, Ann, of 43 years and wife, Annette, of 6 years; parents David Walker and Christiana Vick-Farnsworth; step-dad Bruce Farnsworth, brother-in-law Milo Christofferson; and son, Ray Kelley. Survivors include: sister, Donna Mae

Christofferson, of Warwick, ND; brother, Raymond Walker (Barb), of Cooperstown, ND; step-son, Steven Meckle (Jodi), of Hasting, MN; son, Rick Walker (Kay), of Tucson, AZ; daughter, Frances Wilmes (Wayne) of Joplin, MO; daughter, Connie Rea, of Ozark, MO; daughter-in-law, Tarcela Kelley, of Joplin, MO; 12 grandchildren, Conrad Kelley, Chelsie Rathbone (Nathan), Ryan Wilmes, Haley Walker, Aubrey Cole (Tom), Kristin Cole (Justin), Brandon Kelley (Erin), Rikki Gates (Anthony), Lauren Meckle, Ashleigh Meckle, Zachary Rea, Rhiannon Walker; and 5 great-grandchildren, Carter Walker, Tanner Cole, Camden Cole, Kenley Walker, and Baby Kelley on the way.

Visitation will be held 5:00 - 7:00 PM Thursday, April 14, 2016 at the Butler Funeral Home, Bolivar, MO. Funeral services will be held 10:00 Am Friday, April, 15, 2016 at the Funeral Home. Burial will take place in the Greenwood Cemetery, Bolivar, MO.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

S. Dunnegan Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 14. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *William S Kelley*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *William S Kelley*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I waited on Bill for years at the bank. He was always so nice to me.
Prayers for the family.
Melissa Crites*

Melissa Crites - April 14, 2016 at 08:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the
family of William S Kelley.*



April 14, 2016 at 11:39 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the
family of William S Kelley.*



April 14, 2016 at 11:26 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William S Kelley.*



April 12, 2016 at 03:13 PM



“ *I will seeing Bill in the neighborhood as i walked. And miss him coming into the office. God bless your family.*

Royce Slagle

Royce Slagle - April 12, 2016 at 02:04 PM



“ *I worked with and for Bill Kelley MANY years ago. I pray God will comfort and strengthen all the family in this loss. God bless. Mary Morgan, Nixa, MO*

Mary Morgan - April 12, 2016 at 08:43 AM



“ *The first time I met Bill, I hadn't worked at the auction long and I saw him sitting in a car with the engine running. Turns out he was napping while Ann was in the license bureau. Ann, Bill, and I became friends after that. Bill had a very tender heart and helped a lot of people, including giving us jobs if we needed one. He was a special person and he will be missed.*

Kathleen E Moree - April 11, 2016 at 04:38 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William S Kelley.*



April 11, 2016 at 02:40 PM