



William "Bill" Kelly

January 21, 1930 - February 7, 2016

William "Bill" Kelly, age 86, passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora, Colorado. Visitation will be from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive. Funeral Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive with Pastor Will Johnson and Reverend Avis Anderson officiating. Interment will be held in the Dawson County Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Bill was born on January 21, 1930, in Malta, Montana, a son of William Joseph and Esther Amanda (Johnson) Kelly. Several moves later the Kelly Family ended up in Glendive. Bill was raised and educated in Glendive where he graduated from Dawson County High School with the class of 1948. Following high school he attended Eastern Montana College graduating with the class of 1953 with a teaching degree.

Bill moved to Harlem, Montana, where he taught and coached at the Harlem High School from 1953 until 1959. During his time in Harlem, Bill met the love of his life, Martha E. Rothie, who was also teaching at the Harlem High School. They were united in marriage on December 23, 1964 in Glendive at the Zion Lutheran Church. Bill taught and coached in Wolf Point, Montana from 1959 until 1964. Then he and Martha moved to Glendive where he continued to teach and coach at the Dawson County High School from 1964 until 1968. During this time period he attended Montana State University and

received his Master's degree in 1960.

In 1968, Bill became the Elementary School Principal of Lincoln Elementary School in Glendive. The same school he attended as a youth growing up in Glendive. He held that position until his retirement in 1991. He was presented the Adrian Lang Staff Award that recognizes outstanding Elementary School Principals in the State of Montana.

In Bill's younger years, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed cooking and traveling; he went to Canada, Mexico, many European countries, Alaska, Hawaii and all the lower states with the exception of the Carolinas. Bill loved to read anything he could get his hands on. He was also very interested in sports; especially football and track.

Bill was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge and he was on the Dawson Community College Board. He was a time keeper for Dawson Community College basketball, Elks Invitational Clerk of Court, and State Elks Scholarship Committee.

Following the death of his brother-in-law, Monte, he and Martha bought the family farm in 1976, plus additional land in 1982. He and Martha operated the farm together during that time.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha; his parents; and siblings, Howard (Pat), Harold (Mike), Gerald, Bernie, Marlene Durbin, and Sharon Blome.

Survivors include his sisters - in - law, De Light Simon and Bev Kelly; numerous nieces and nephews and extended family. He will be greatly missed by many.

Donations in Bill Kelly's name may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at:

silhafuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Dawson County Cemetery

Corner of North Sargent Ave. and East Allard
Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Home
221 North Meade Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Visitation

FEB 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Home
221 North Meade Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Service

FEB 17. 10:00 AM (MT)

Zion Lutheran Church
401 Riverview Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Kelly*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *William bill Kelly was a very caring wonderful man he was my principal at Lincoln when I was growing up in glendive had to visit him a couple times in his office and use to see him outside his house and I'd stop and visit with him when I'd return to glendive to visit always had a smile on his face....My thoughts n prayers go out to the family R.I.P. Mr Kelly God took another wonderful and caring man home.....sincerely Dale Ludwig*

Dale Ludwig - February 22, 2016 at 10:45 PM



Bill Kelly was a wonderful, caring and compassionate man. I taught at Washington, but knew him from other activities. He was a great administrator too!

Correen Toepke Major - February 08, 2017 at 02:15 PM



“ *Tacey Hughes lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Tacey Hughes - February 19, 2016 at 11:27 PM

TG

“ Tacey Hughes Gatlin lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Tacey Hughes Gatlin - February 19, 2016 at 11:27 PM

KE

“ Thoughts and prayers to Bill Kelly's family. Bill Kelly always greeted everyone with a "smile" and "Hello". As a teacher Mr. Kelly created lots of enthusiasm and participation from his students.

Karen & Darrell White Eagle

K White Eagle - February 17, 2016 at 02:14 PM

SS

“ It was ok with Bill Kelly when the pet dog followed them to school . One of the good people God put on this earth .

Steve &Melody Schreder - February 16, 2016 at 10:07 PM

LP

“ LuAnn Price lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



luAnn Price - February 16, 2016 at 08:19 PM

CB

“ Our prayers are with Bill Kelly's family at this time of his passing. As parents, we were fortunate that Bill was principal at Lincoln Elementary when our three children were in the primary grades .He did care for all students, supported teachers and was just a pleasant person to talk with. I also started to work in the Glendive Public Schools as a speech-language pathologist when Bill was still principal. We all had good experiences under his leadership under his leadership at Lincoln Elementary.

Cashe and Janice Burrows

Cashe Burrows - February 16, 2016 at 05:24 PM

JH

“ I was so very sorry to hear about Mr. Kelly's death. Mr. Kelly was such a kind and caring man. My family moved to Glendive when I was in 4th grade and I went to Lincoln Elementary. My first week at school I had a hard time adjusting to being in a new and different environment and I went to the principals office every day feeling 'sick'. Mr Kelly took me home to my mom in his pickup truck every day that first week, until my mom told him I was just homesick and I needed to stay at school.



I remember him always being around and interacting with the kids in the school and out on the playground - he was very much involved with the school and cared about our well-being.

Jana Huggins

Jana Huggins - February 16, 2016 at 03:12 PM

TF

“ *The John Colbrese Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Kelly.*



The John Colbrese Family - February 16, 2016 at 11:39 AM

MC

“ *Coach Kelly was a kind, yet firm, force in our lives. He played high school football with my dad, John, and he was our neighbor across the alley. When I enrolled at DCHS in the fall of 1965 as a junior transfer student and went out for football, he greeted me and made me feel welcome. He was also my home room teacher so each day started with his smile. From time to time I would call and visit just to touch bases and was humbled that he'd followed my career and knew what I was up to. He will be one of those strong, fond, memories!*

Mike Colbrese - February 16, 2016 at 10:52 AM

JM

“ *As a student of Lincoln School while Mr Kelly was principal, I had always admired and respected him, even before I knew what those words meant. Later as I grew to adulthood, I fostered the same feelings toward him as I realized he was one of the truly good people of the world. Always welcoming, friendly, and leading by example, the community was a better place because of Bill Kelly*

Jon McCloy - February 16, 2016 at 12:44 AM

SF

“ We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. What a kind and wonderful man and educator Bill was! He was one of the best, touched so many lives, and will be missed by so many! It was a pleasure for me to work with Bill at Lincoln School for so many years, and for Paul to work with him on the Foundation at DCC. He always had every ones best interest at heart. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's family and friends throughout this time.

Sincerely,
Paul and Sandra Fasting

Sandra Fasting - February 14, 2016 at 12:43 PM

WT

“ Bill Kelly was my teacher in the Harlem Grade School and my High School football Coach from 1956 to 1959. I will remember him always,..... he was a good man. Keith Tabor

Walter Keith Tabor - February 14, 2016 at 09:30 AM

LS

“ Mr. Kelly was really in tune with his school. He didn't sit in his office. He was out on the playground with the kids. He would walk around the playground and there was always a child holding his hand. He knew all the kids' names and who their parents were, too. I don't remember any bullying at Lincoln School, either. Mr. Kelly was always caring and concerned for his Lincoln School kids. He remembered us years after we had left Lincoln School and always asked about us. Thank you, Mr. Kelly, for making school a great place to be and for caring so much about your kids.

When Mr. Kelly turned 80, many of the Lincoln School kids learned about his birthday on Facebook and sent him cards. I think he was surprised to received them. He shouldn't have been surprised to get back just a small "thank you" for the kindness he showered on us as kids. Thank you, Mr. Kelly!

Lisa Seekins - February 13, 2016 at 10:52 AM

MK

“ Mr. Kelly made me feel at home at Lincoln School and many years later, whenever I would see him, he would greet me with a smile and wonder how I was doing. The world has lost a truly good man. Your kindness and wonderful smile will never be forgotten!! Rest in peace Mr. Kelly!!!

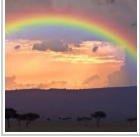
Melissa Powell Kwasney - February 12, 2016 at 03:35 PM

MH

“ Maureen Hanrahan lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Maureen Hanrahan - February 12, 2016 at 11:03 AM



“ *Denise Schumaker Stoddart lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Denise Schumaker Stoddart - February 11, 2016 at 07:15 PM

BK

“ *Bill was an exceptional person. His accomplishments were many. It was a pleasure to spend time with Bill, his friends were many. A fine man. His humor always left me smiling and feeling good. I am blessed to count Bill as one of my favorite Cousins and he will surely be missed.*

Cousin Bob Kelly

Bob Kelly - February 11, 2016 at 05:08 PM

BP

“ *Mr. Kelly was one of the finest coaches that I had during my athletic career! A great teacher, awesome motivator, and just plain nice person!! I am sorry that I didn't get to visit with him in recent years! He will always have a place in my high school memories! Sorry to see him go to the other camp!*

Bob Parsley

Bob Parsley - February 11, 2016 at 02:31 PM

TO

“ My very deep and sincere condolences go to Mister Kelly's family. Please draw strength in the knowledge that Mr Kelly was the most loved teacher in Glendive. He was so much more than just a teacher, he was the teachers teacher and the principals principal. He knew the names of every student in the school and their families. Even when his students moved on to Washington School, Dawson County High School and yes, even when they moved on to colleges he remembered their names and would go out of his way to stop and visit with them when he saw them in town. It was my Privilege to have been able to work with him in the years that I worked in the schools. His advise and guidance were invaluable. My Prayers go to Mr Kelly, his family and all the students and who loved him.

Terry Osborn - February 10, 2016 at 05:37 PM

LH

“ So sorry for the loss of a great principal and a truly wonderful person. May he rest in peace

Larry Heimbuch

Larry Heimbuch - February 10, 2016 at 04:13 PM

R(

“ Mr. Kelly was supportive and encouraging while I completed my student teaching experience at Lincoln. He and Martha provided such a positive influence on me. They were both great teachers and great people. Much respect for both of them. Rest in peace.

Rene Knapp (Grundhauser) - February 09, 2016 at 11:08 PM

KG

“ One of the real "Good Guys", I worked for Mr. Kelly at Lincoln school, (too old for him to be my principal) in the late 60's while going to college.
He was a great guy, may he rest in peace. To all the Kelly families you are all in my thoughts.

Ken Gilbertson - February 09, 2016 at 08:50 AM

DT

“ Im one of the fortunate students that had him as a principal @ Lincoln Elementary. I was always amazed that he made everyone feel special. Every student. And he kept amazing me because even now as an adult, he remembered you. What a wonderful legacy he has left behind. Prayers to the family, you were fortunate to have such an amazing man in your life.

Dawn Torres - February 09, 2016 at 12:02 AM

TS

“ Tracy Skillestad Schroeder lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Tracy Skillestad Schroeder - February 08, 2016 at 10:44 PM

IL

“ so sad to hear of Bill Kelly's passing, He was the best Teacher/Principal ever . Will always remember him with a joyful thought. RIP Mr. Kelly

Ida Scott Lacquement - February 08, 2016 at 09:17 PM

RC

“ Bill and Martha were Terry's and my high school teachers in Wolf Point back in the '60s. They were just as great back then as they were here in Glendive.

Rynette Coon

Rynette Coon - February 08, 2016 at 08:40 PM

NC

“ What a huge loss to our community. He always knew you by name and would ask about your family members by name also even 45 years later! I will truly miss him.

Nancy Cullinan - February 08, 2016 at 07:56 PM

 Stacy Rue

“ I was so sad to hear of Mr. Kelly's passing. I went to Lincoln school k-6 and he was such a sweet soul. Prayers for the family.

Stacy Rue - February 08, 2016 at 07:50 PM

CM

“ What a wonderful, caring man he was! A great principal at Lincoln School for so many years! He will be missed!

Correen Toepke Major - February 08, 2016 at 07:46 PM

MC

Remembering Bill Kelly always brings a smile to my face. He taught in the Harlem Schools for several years and was always a kind, generous person both with his knowledge and his feelings for others. RIP, Mr. Kelly ... you have earned every single praise given to you. Myla Molkjer Cole, Great Falls, MT

Myla Molkjer Cole - February 14, 2016 at 10:59 AM

VD

“ He always remembered the names of the kids he had even 20 or 30 years later. Everyone loved him. A huge loss to all that loved and cared about him.

Vonda Boje Dinger - February 08, 2016 at 06:28 PM

SK

“ Mr. Kelly always had the knack to make each of his school kids feel special. I wish that trait could be taught to every person because our world could use this talent of his. Wishes for peace and comfort to all of his family.

Susie Krueger-Henderson - February 08, 2016 at 06:22 PM

AH

“ Bill Kelly was one of the most special, most endearing people I have ever known. He was my student teaching supervisor when I student taught at Lincoln in 1993. I mean, really, how lucky could I be!? He truly is one of those people that I feel privileged to have known. I'm not sure he knows how many lives he touched. My sincere condolences to his family.

Amy Hopfauf - February 08, 2016 at 06:12 PM

EB

“ He knew everyone of the kids in his school. He was such a tender soul and this world is sadder today. RIP Mr. Kelly

Edith Kinsey Barowsky - February 08, 2016 at 06:01 PM

SN

“ *Shelly Morasko Nearpass lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Shelly Morasko Nearpass - February 08, 2016 at 05:54 PM


Cherise
Feser

“ *So sorry for your loss. He was a such a great person! I have such wonderful memories of his smile and kindness. My parents were both educators with him for years, my Mom worked directly for him- I never once heard anyone say anything negative about Mr. Kelly. He was a wonderful example of how to treat people, and how to be a lifelong learner. ~ Cherise Feser. (Cherise Wiley)*

Cherise Feser - February 08, 2016 at 05:32 PM

MR

“ *Millie Robinson lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Millie Robinson - February 08, 2016 at 03:52 PM

MR

Great memories of years I taught at Lincoln while Bill was Principal. You knew he loved the kids and they liked him. He had a wonderful sense of humor and could tell some great stories.

Millie Robinson - February 08, 2016 at 03:57 PM

MR

I also remember all the mornings after he retired when I met passed him on Merrill as I drove to work--and he drove to coffee--he always waved!

Millie Robinson - February 08, 2016 at 04:00 PM

GG

“ Another hero...gone from this Earth, but not forgotten. Bill was one in a million! From loving on every single student who walked through the doors of Lincoln Elementary, to stepping in to take a class of 6th graders after nearly chopped off a thumb with the paper cutter; Bill was there. Always. He truly cared, and God gifted him with such an amazing ability to touch the lives and hearts of so many. In my 22 year teaching career, Bill Kelly was the cream of the crop in the "boss" department. I am so grateful to have known him. Our sincere condolences to the Kelly family. He will be missed. RIP, Bill.

Jack and Georgia Gannon

Georgia Gannon - February 08, 2016 at 03:06 PM

LT

“ Les And Virginia Tipton lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Les and Virginia Tipton - February 08, 2016 at 01:32 PM

LT

“ I am saddened to hear we lost one of the most respected and loved man around. Bill was wonderful not only as a principal but also as a boss and later as a friend. I can still remember the first time I met him for an interview and when he heard my name immediately asked about "Vonnie" who he had as a student while in Wolf Point! Needless to say I was surprised he even knew my sister-in-law! I was so amazed how he remembered the names and faces of every student he had. What an amazing man! It is wonderful the number of students he helped along the way! He will be missed greatly by everyone

Les and Virginia Tipton

Les and Virginia Tipton - February 08, 2016 at 01:30 PM

DR

“ As all have said Bill was an amazing principle, man and boss. I never had the privilege of having him as a principal as I was a Jefferson kid. I did however have the honor of having him as a boss as I worked in the Lincoln school kitchen. I remember spending a lot of coffee breaks visiting with Bill, even after he retired he would stop in and have a quick cup with us, My husband Carl did get to go to Lincoln school and Bill always remembered him jumping out of the swing and breaking his arm. He would give Carl a bad time about that every time he seen him in the later years! Heaven received an awesome new angel, rest in peace dear Bill. Denise & Carl Richards



Denise Richards - February 08, 2016 at 11:58 AM

AL

“ I remember all the kids (myself included) at recess running to the back fence when Mr. Kelley would walk by the playground on his daily walk after he retired. Everything stopped; kick balls rolled around, the swings emptied, jump ropes were scattered on the ground, games of marbles abandoned...and every kid was running to the fence. Everyone loved him!



Ashley Langton - February 08, 2016 at 11:45 AM

CC

“ Cheryl And Lee Carpenter lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Cheryl and Lee Carpenter - February 08, 2016 at 11:23 AM

KT

“ Kim Trejo lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Kim Trejo - February 08, 2016 at 10:33 AM

DT

“ *Debbie Fager Tweet lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Debbie Fager Tweet - February 08, 2016 at 10:17 AM

DD

“ *Dan And Donna Dobson lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Dan and Donna Dobson - February 08, 2016 at 10:04 AM

LO

“ *Bill was always respected by the students in his school and also by his friends. He was a great guy.*



Larry and Sandy Ooum - February 08, 2016 at 09:54 AM

JB

“ *Joyce Bishop lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Joyce Bishop - February 08, 2016 at 09:37 AM

SM

“ *Selina (Frank) McNelley lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Selina (Frank) McNelley - February 08, 2016 at 06:41 AM

GM

“ *Bill Kelly helped Gene in so many ways. Gene loved his work at the school library at Lincoln and Bill was so excited to help Gene in his recovery without any hesitation. RIP our friend!! Sincerely, Gene & Leslie Micheletto*



Gene Micheletto - February 08, 2016 at 02:38 AM



“ *Caralee Erhart-Loonat lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Caralee Erhart-Loonat - February 08, 2016 at 02:33 AM

DG

“ I am thankful that I had the privilege of having Mr. Kelly for my principal at Lincoln School for 1st - 6th grade (August 1970 - May 1975). He was simply an awesome man, and so good with all the students. He respected everyone, which in turn caused the kids to learn respect and respect him. He seemed to remember everyone that ever went to school at Lincoln when he saw them, even just recently. He was the principal above all principals, and set an example for others to follow. I've never heard anyone say anything negative about him. Most students loved that man, and would still admit that today. Yes, I cried when I found out he passed away this morning. The world lost a good man. RIP Mr. Kelly . . . you were loved by many.



Dawn Reinhart Guenzi - February 08, 2016 at 12:15 AM



“ Denise Schumaker Stoddart lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Denise Schumaker Stoddart - February 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ Best principal EVER! He always had that sweet smile, and never forgot your name! He knew how to make ever child special! Heaven gained an amazing man! Prayers and comfort for the Kelly family!

Heather Wolf Havens - February 07, 2016 at 11:24 PM

CH

“ Carol Hanson lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Carol Hanson - February 07, 2016 at 11:19 PM

BM

“ Brenda Mast lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Brenda Mast - February 07, 2016 at 10:47 PM

SN

“ Stacy Nilson lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Stacy Nilson - February 07, 2016 at 10:47 PM

DM

“ So many wonderful memories throughout the years Bill was in our lives. What a wonderful man he was and taught us so many of the things we use every day. He touched so many lives. What a legacy! May deepest condolences to the family.



Diane Schmuck McDuffie - February 07, 2016 at 10:47 PM

SC

“ Sherry And Arvid Corneliusen lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Sherry and Arvid Corneliusen - February 07, 2016 at 10:36 PM

LD

“ He was hands down a man who loved kids and was a great role model. Those of us who had him as our principal at Lincoln Elementary School were truly blessed.

Lani Debuhr - February 07, 2016 at 10:31 PM

Jenny Larson

“ Jenny Larson lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Jenny Larson - February 07, 2016 at 10:24 PM

ER

“ Mr Kelly was a fantastic man. I remember when he used to come out to recess with us when we were in school. There was always a group of kids walking around the playground with him. He always remembered me to even when I got older. May he rest in peace

Eryn (Lee) Rule - February 07, 2016 at 10:16 PM

JG

“ *Jerry Geiger lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Jerry Geiger - February 07, 2016 at 10:01 PM

PB

“ *Pam Ball lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Pam Ball - February 07, 2016 at 09:19 PM



“ *To this shy, awkward little girl Lincoln Elementary was Mr. Kelly and Mr. Kelly was Lincoln Elementary. He always had a smile....and the Polar Bear Flag when it was too cold to go outside. He will be deeply missed.*
Candace Fetzer

Candace Fetzer - February 07, 2016 at 08:05 PM

MG

“ *Marlene Gehnert lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



Marlene Gehnert - February 07, 2016 at 07:53 PM

MH

“ *Melissa Hansen lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly*



melissa hansen - February 07, 2016 at 07:36 PM

ME

“ *I will always remember that I was ready for kindergarten when I was not of age. I had my backpack ready and marched to school with my mom. Mr. Kelly stated, "Megan we are not ready for you this year but we will be ready next year". I stated I was not coming next year. Mr. Kelly was always a sweet, honest, and caring man who truly loved us kids. I also remember that we all knew he had a paddle in his drawer just in case. I am glad I never saw that but we heard of it!! Your kindness and love to others will be missed. Megan Srsen-Bingham*

Megan - February 07, 2016 at 07:17 PM

AL

“ *My sincere condolences to the entire family. This was a great man...caring, professional, and a class act all the way! To say he will be missed is an understatement. Brought tears to my eyes to learn of his passing...may my few words bring you some comfort.*

Amy (Geiger) LaPierre - February 07, 2016 at 07:07 PM

AL

“ Amy (Geiger) LaPierre lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Amy (Geiger) LaPierre - February 07, 2016 at 07:03 PM

HF

“ Heather (Haggerty) Frank lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Heather (Haggerty) Frank - February 07, 2016 at 06:09 PM



“ my condolences to the kelly family. it must be comforting to know how many children were touched by Bill's kind and generous spirit. all of us who were lucky enough to have "mr kelly" for our principal were blessed in a huge way. 50 years later, he still called me by name. our world got a little darker today.

Peggy Meidinger - February 07, 2016 at 05:27 PM

DS

“ Donna Latka Stanfill lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Kelly



Donna Latka Stanfill - February 07, 2016 at 04:15 PM

DS

RIP, Mr. Kelly. You are the best!

Donna Latka Stanfill - February 07, 2016 at 04:16 PM

BT

“ *Mr Kelly will be sorely missed by so many people in the Glendive Community!! What an Amazing man... I will always Treasure my knowing him for being the kindest Principal of any that I had... As being a past student of Lincoln School.. and growing up in the same neighbor hood as he did!! Rest in Peace Mr Kelly!!!!*
Becky (Chouinard) Tipton

Becky Tipton - February 07, 2016 at 04:15 PM