



## Kelvin Boyd Bergdale

February 25, 1948 - October 28, 2017

It is with absolute and profound sadness that we announce the death of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale, age 69, Saturday, October 28, 2017 at Emory University Hospital following a nine-month fight against Glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer - a fight that was no less than heroic. Kel was born in Hawarden, Iowa to Leslie and Ruth Wilson Bergdale. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Political Science and then served in Vietnam from 1970 to 1972. Since 2004 Kel was employed as an insurance agent for True North Companies in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Prior to 2004, he was Manager of Production at Plaid Enterprises in Atlanta, GA. Kel was the beloved husband of Sherry and the devoted and proud father of sons, Jeff and Greg (Katherine). His family was so happy to be able to stream Greg and Katherine's wedding, which took place October 27, 2017 to his room at Emory. He is also survived by his brother, Bernard Bergdale (Phyllis) of Alcester, SD, sisters, Marge Eilers of Alcester, Muriel Goettsch (Duane) of Winnebago, IL, and Jean Eilers of Valdosta, GA as well as a host of much-loved cousins, nephews, nieces and a countless number of friends...and his beloved cat, Soxy. Kel loved people and nothing made him happier than spending time with family and friends. He was a kind and loyal friend. An avid sports fan, he spent many years coaching youth recreational baseball and basketball in Rockdale County. He never forgot a child he coached. He also served two terms on the Rockdale County Board of Recreation. He was extremely passionate about his beloved Iowa Hawkeyes and nothing pleased him more

than a trip to Iowa City during football season! He also developed a love of European travel and was fortunate to enjoy several trips over the past few years. One year in France, he was able to participate in the Flag Ceremony at the American Cemetery in Normandy - an honor that he held close to his heart. It is difficult to express our appreciation for the concern, care and love Kel received during the past nine months - from the skilled and compassionate doctors and nurses at Emory to the multitude of loving friends and relatives who drove many miles to take him to his daily radiology appointments...and, of course, then to Fox Brothers for lunch! Getting to visit with his friends on these trips was the highlight of his day. A special thank you to his sister Jean Eilers and niece Traci Pritchard for spending so much time with Kel at Emory and to Jane Kruse who stayed with Kel at the hospital so that the rest of the family could attend Greg and Katherine's wedding. And to Phil Marucha and the Emory employees who made it possible for Kel to watch his son's wedding....a million thank-you's is not enough. Funeral services will be held Friday, November 3, 2017 at 12 p.m. at Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel with Dr. Dave Benson officiating; interment will follow at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Conyers First United Methodist Church, 921 N. Main Street, NW, Conyers, GA 30012. Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Rd., Conyers, GA, 770-483-7216.

# Cemetery Details

## Green Meadow Memorial Gardens

677 American Legion Rd NE  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 3. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

## Service

NOV 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale.*



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November 13, 2017 at 02:19 PM



“ *Sherry, Jeff and Greg I have so many great memories spending time with Kel at many athletic functions. Kel had a wonderful spirit and enjoyed life. He will be missed by many. Please know that we are praying for you during this difficult time. Jim, Chris, Matt and Mark Burch*

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**jim burch** - November 04, 2017 at 09:47 PM



“ *I am so very sorry to learn of Kel's passing. He was a wonderful, thoughtful man with a heart for serving his community. I've known him for many years and fondly remember working with him on County recreation projects. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to his loved ones.*

*Julie Mills*

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**Julie Mills** - November 04, 2017 at 11:09 AM

J(

“ Kel and I met and became friends 50 years ago while in college at Iowa...a couple of guys from small towns who loved the Hawkeyes. When not attending, watching or discussing sports, a bunch of us might be found on a rainy weekend afternoon at one of our apartments playing bridge or teams-Monopoly while sipping adult beverages. One of my favorite memories came after college when he and our friend Stick visited me when I was working in Nevada, IA. Kel loved that adventure too and often brought it up during his trips to Iowa City when we got together. Another favorite memory was just a year ago when Kel orchestrated a mini-reunion of six of us from those great college days. That was Kel...once a friend, always a friend. I will greatly miss his visits, and the phone conversations we had over the last several months. Rest in Peace, Kel.

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**John Richards (Porpoise)** - November 03, 2017 at 06:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - November 03, 2017 at 12:33 PM

FR

“ Sherry, Jeff and Greg,

*We just want to tell you how sorry we are on the passing of Kel. He was one of the finest men I know. We go back a long time, as Kevin, our son, and Jeff first became friends in kindergarten. I had the wonderful privilege this spring to take Kel to Emory a couple of times for radiation. I will treasure those times. It was great to spend that time with him.*

*We love you all and wil continue to pray for you.*

*Frank and Pat Rollins*

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**Frank Rollins** - November 03, 2017 at 10:18 AM

DL

“ Cheryl, My heart aches for you and your boys. You are in my prayers.

*Dawn Lanier*

*Your CHOA Family*

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**Dawn Lanier** - November 03, 2017 at 09:36 AM

DO

“ Condolences to the family of Kelvin during this time of your loss. A long time ago are the memories for me in our much younger days. May our Lord look upon the family with peace and blessings and give you strength in the days ahead.

*Our notice of his passing was shared by our Illinois Cousin Donna Harrell.*

*Texas Cousin, Donald Olson, and wife Jane*

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**Donald L Olson** - November 03, 2017 at 12:29 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale.*



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November 02, 2017 at 09:17 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale.*



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November 02, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ *Friends @ TrueNorth Companies purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale.*



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**Friends @ TrueNorth Companies** - November 02, 2017 at 12:09 PM



“ *The Revenue and AR Team at Internap purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale.*



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**The Revenue and AR Team at Internap** - November 02, 2017 at 11:31 AM

SE

“ We're so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of your family at this time.

Steve & Beverly Ericson  
Chattanooga, TN

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Steve Ericson - November 02, 2017 at 10:38 AM

RK

“ Kel was my college roommate for two years at Iowa and a good friend. I have so many memories of good times we shared, often involving our beloved Hawkeyes and/or a libation. He could strike up a conversation with anyone....and often did. His smile and friendly demeanor was genuine, and after a few minutes it could seem as though a stranger was a long lost friend. Kel was as close to exemplifying "love thy neighbor as thyself" as anyone I have known. Kel's family, faith and friends were his priorities and he gave due diligence to each. You are missed. Condolences to Sherri, Jeff and Greg in this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers, Rollie and Judy Kitt

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Rollie Kitt - November 01, 2017 at 11:08 PM

DH

“ Sympathy to the family. Muriel just called and told me. May you find strength through God and good memories.

Illinois Cousin, Donna

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Donna Harrell - November 01, 2017 at 07:51 PM

RM

“ Dear Sherry, Jeff, and Greg,

*I am so sorry for your loss. Kel was a great friend of mine. We enjoyed many years of coaching youth baseball and basketball together. He will missed by all knew him. I know I sure will. You have my deepest sympathy.*

*Ronnie Mesimer*

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**Ronnie Mesimer** - November 01, 2017 at 07:24 PM

LS

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Kel's passing. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.*

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**Laura Swanson** - November 01, 2017 at 04:05 PM

SR

“ *So sorry to hear of Kel' s illness and passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

*Bill and Sandy Rhodes  
Martin, Georgia*

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**Sandra Rhodes** - November 01, 2017 at 02:18 PM

DH

“ Dear Sherry, Jeff and Greg,

*We are so sorry for your loss. Kel was such a kind and strong man and will be missed by many. He was constantly talking about his family and would always ask about ours with sincere interest. He touched so many lives and will never be forgotten.*

*Our deepest condolences,  
The Holmes Family*

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**Darrell Holmes** - November 01, 2017 at 11:25 AM

JL

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. God is the source of all life and an enemy of death. May he provide you with peace and comfort during this difficult time.*

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**Jess L** - October 31, 2017 at 11:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale.*



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October 31, 2017 at 07:07 PM

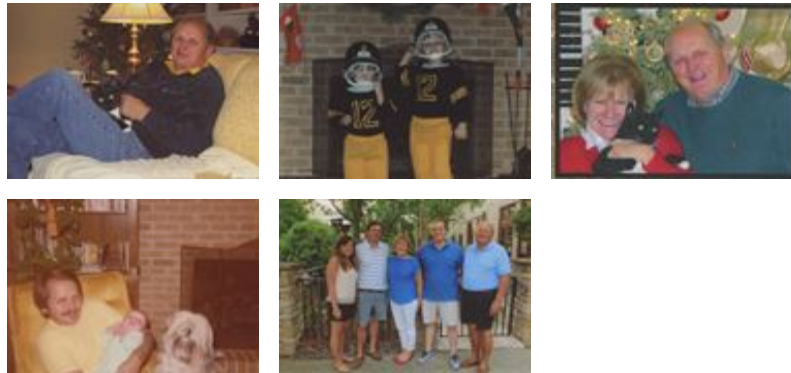
TT

“ Growing up in Hawarden Kel and I spent many, many hours together playing sport related games & talking sports and once in a while we might have even talked about girls. His continued friendship beyond high school & college and into each of our 40 plus years of our marriages is something I will always hold close to my heart. I am so thankful that I got to spend time with him at our 50th high school class reunion plus a get together that same time frame at Lake Okoboji. He was a true friend and my sympathy goes out to the entire family.

Terry Tausz - October 31, 2017 at 01:05 PM



“ 43 files added to the album Life Tributes



Scot Ward Funeral Services - October 31, 2017 at 12:49 PM

DK

“ Kel, was my college roommate for 3 years and I could never have asked for better friend. What I appreciated, having grown up in George, Iowa was the down to earth, humble, honest, simple approach of living his life to the fullest. He will be deeply missed by all his family and friends. Rest assured though the Hawkeyes will have the best fan ever in Heaven!  
Dave Krull

dave krull - October 31, 2017 at 12:26 PM

VB

“ Dear Cheryl and family, so very sad to hear of Kel's passing. May you find peace when remembering all the happy moments in life that you shared.

Vicki Brewster - October 31, 2017 at 11:29 AM

TR

“ The Prior Family (Betsy, Matt, Jenn, Ashlie, Ryan) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kelvin Boyd Bergdale.



The Prior Family (Betsy, Matt, Jenn, Ashlie, Ryan) - October 31, 2017 at 08:20 AM

RW

“ Cheryl, Warren and I send our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Know that you all are in our prayers during this very difficult time. Kel was a true sweetheart. Cherish the memories. God be with you all. Regina & Warren Williams

Regina Williams - October 30, 2017 at 10:13 PM

DA

“ Kel will always be remembered well & healthy enjoying a good visit! Roger especially enjoyed reminiscing & joking about past pranks among the Wilson clan.. Pray you are enjoying the same today, together, in your new home in heaven.. Kelvin truly lived and loved his faith, family & friends! Sincere Love & Sympathy - Donna (Roger) Anderson from Alcester SD

Donna Anderson - October 30, 2017 at 08:13 PM

JF

“ Our hearts are broken as we grieve for the loss of Kel, our beloved friend of 40 years. We are thankful for the wonderful times that we shared together enjoying family celebrations and outings, vacations, social gatherings, neighborhood events, church activities and special holiday traditions. Most importantly, we value Kel for his loyalty and true friendship to our family throughout the years. While we will miss Kel, his memories will live with us forever. Our love and prayers go to Sherry, Jeff, Greg, Katherine and family during this difficult time. May God bless and comfort you. Jenni & Danny Fleming

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Jenni Fleming - October 30, 2017 at 06:28 PM

SW

“ Kel and I grew up together in South Dakota about 1/2 mile across the field and creek. We would get together and play "Farm" with the toys our Grandparents and parents made for us. Kel loved to play baseball and we mowed many pastures to make ball fields and play every Sunday afternoon. I will always remember his love of his Mother Ruth's Cinnamon rolls, he would eat the whole pan and then eat no dinner. He also loved Strawberry Shortcake.

We celebrated Christmas's together as a family and had great times in Church together as well. Kel was always kind and he and his Mother came to see me everyday in the hospital after I was in a car accident as a 9 year old. It made my day to have Kel to play with at that time. I never forgot that act of kindness

I know that Sherry, Jeff, Greg and Katherin will miss you greatly and our prayers are with them during this time and in the future. I will miss you greatly as well but look forward to the time in the future when I will see you in Heaven.

Cousin Steve Wilson and Lori

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Steve Wilson - October 30, 2017 at 06:16 PM

JL

“ I will always remember Kel for the support he showed for my boys when they played football at Heritage High. I think he was there every Friday night. I will also always remember the good times when we met with the guys every Thursday afternoon. Kel, you will always be in my thought, R.I.P.

*Jim + Kathy Laggis*

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**Jim Laggis** - October 30, 2017 at 05:22 PM