



## Robert M. 'Bob' Kelley

December 23, 1929 - May 21, 2016

Mr. Robert McCrory 'Bob' Kelley, a longtime resident of Conyers, GA, died on Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the age of 86.

Mr. Kelley is survived by his four children: Joel C. Kelley (Leann) of Asheville, NC; Robert M. Kelley, Jr. (Theresa) of McDonough, GA; William L. Kelley of Bremen, GA and Cynthia K. Truett (Charles) of Dacula, GA; and ten grandchildren: Erin K. Kelley, Jennifer Kelley Sadler (Jake), Clarissa Kelley Gillespie (Ryan), the children of Joel C. and Leann C. Kelley; Patrick Kelley, son of Robert M. and Theresa Kelley, Jr; Ryan Kelley (Mandy) and Rochelle Kelley Moore (Eric), the children of Robert M. and Shirley Kelley; Danielle Kelley and Celina Kelley, the children of William Lee and Pamela Kelley; and Kelli Truett Spinks (Justin) and Kati Truett Nesbitt (Patrick), children of Charles E. and Cynthia K. Truett.

Mr. Kelley was preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, Faye P. Kelley. In addition, Mr. Kelley was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin K. Kelley as well as siblings, Benjamin W. Kelley, H. A. Kelley, J. Daniel Kelley, Howard B. Kelley, Jennie Lee Kelley, William B. Kelley and Mary Irene Kelley.

Mr. Kelley was born on December 23, 1929 in Scottsboro, AL, to the late Benjamin and Myrtle Kelley. He attended high school in Florence, AL, graduating from Coffee High School where he excelled as a student and athlete. He attended college at Snead College in Boaz, AL, where he met his future bride, Faye P. Kelley as well as numerous lifelong friends. After serving

honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, he later continued his studies and graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Education in Educational Administration. He received a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Georgia. By that time, he and Faye had married and started a family. After leaving Tuscaloosa, he began a long and successful career as a teacher and administrator. Over the next several years, the couple welcomed two more children into their home. All of their children were privileged to live in a loving home where education was highly valued and they were encouraged to pursue their goals. In total, Mr. Kelley served 33 years in education. His longest tenure was in Rockdale County Public Schools in Conyers, GA. There he worked side by side with his wife, Faye P. Kelley. Together they were a leadership team. Thousands of lives were touched by them over decades of service, an accomplishment which can be claimed by very few. After retiring from his education career, Mr. Kelley continued to serve for two terms on the Rockdale County Board of Education, including several terms as Chairman.

Mr. Kelley was an accomplished gardener and woodworker. He and Faye spent countless hours tending their garden so they could share with others. Mr. Kelley was known for his fine craft of building birdhouses which were always highly personalized and proudly given as gifts. He regularly volunteered at the Home Depot to help children learn woodworking craft. He was highly creative in woodworking and crafts as well as a talented writer. He often created his own greeting cards where he shared his talent for writing verse with others. For years, Mr. Kelley volunteered as Santa Claus during the Christmas Season and was even employed to play the role of Saint Nick in the Atlanta area. The eyes of children would light up when they saw him, no matter the time of year, absolutely certain they were seeing the real Santa Claus. Mr. Kelley's legacy is also rooted in youth sports and parks. He was a driving force behind the development of youth baseball in both Madison and Rockdale counties. Pine Log Park in Conyers is enjoyed by many today because of the vision provided by him and others. Mr. Kelley was one of the

founders of the local Rockdale Federal Credit Union that served educators for many years and continues to serve the financial needs of members of the community today. He was the epitome of the saying that 'Someone sits in the shade of a tree today because a seed was planted long ago.' Mr. Kelley dedicated many years of service to another civic organization, Lions International. He and Faye served the local chapter and Mr. Kelley was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow in 1999 and one of the first inductees into the Lions International Hall of Fame. Mr. Kelley was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Conyers for 52 years. He and Faye were key members of their Sunday School Classes and regularly volunteered at the church.

Visitations are scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2016 from 2:00-4:00 and 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Scot Ward Funeral Services in Conyers. Mr. Kelley's funeral service is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 921 N. Main St., Conyers, GA. Dr. John Beyers will officiate the ceremony. Mr. Kelley's grandsons will serve as Pall Bearers; interment will follow at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Mr. Kelley's life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Maxwell Sunday School Class at First United Methodist Church, 921 N. Main St., Conyers, GA. The family would like to thank Emory University Hospital and Budd Terrace doctors and nurses as well as Jean Carter for their extraordinary care and compassion.

Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Cemetery Details

## Green Meadow Memorial Gardens

677 Legion Rd.  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **24.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

MAY **24.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

MAY **25.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Conyers First United Methodist Church  
921 N. Main St.  
Conyers, GA 30012



# Tribute Wall

WS

“ I only now learned of Bob's passing. My wife Rowena knew "Mr. Kelley" and his lovely wife Faye during our time working with the PTA at Honey Creek Elementary School. We never met a finer couple personally and professionally. They are and will be missed.

*William Lester & Rowena D. Smith  
Conyers*

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**William Smith** - June 20, 2016 at 03:53 PM

JB

“ My deepest sympathies to the children, grandchildren and other family members of Bob Kelley. He was truly a blessing in your lives and was to those of us who knew him and called him a friend. He has now joined the love of his life, Faye.

*My first meeting with him was at Honey Creek Elementary where he was my son's first principal. I knew he was indeed a special man by the way he treated the students (whom all loved him) and his teachers and of course us parents. I know when he retired, he was sorely missed by students, teachers and parents.*

*Whatever Bob was involved in, he did it well. His life mattered by his contribution of himself to so many people, organizations and events for which he was involved. He was passionate about the things that mattered in life.*

*I had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Education with Bob during his last two years as a Board member. We sat next to each other in the board meetings and shared many conversations. I valued his experience as an educator and he respected my contribution as a business woman. It was a pleasant experience and I appreciated his contribution as he served many years as a board member.*

*Sincere condolence,*

*Judy (Rowell) Berry Kernersville, NC*

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**Judy (Rowell) Berry** - June 02, 2016 at 01:59 PM

FB

“ He was my principal first through fifth grade ! Always thought he was a good man .

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**Fred briscoe** - May 25, 2016 at 12:34 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert M. 'Bob' Kelley.*



May 24, 2016 at 05:20 PM



“ *Mr. Kelley saw fit to offer me a position as a fifth grade teacher at the newly opened Honey Creek Elementary. I was fresh out of college without a repertoire of skills. He created a culture of competence, confidence and inclusion with his style of leadership. Mr. Kelley inspired me do my job successfully. I will always remember him fondly and cherish his kindness.*

*Diane Worthy Adams-Lyles*

**Diane Worthy Adams-Lyles** - May 23, 2016 at 11:38 PM



*Oh, Miss Adams! That is so sweet. You were a baby teacher when I attended Honey Creek, and you are right. It was awesome.*

**L. Rowan** - May 24, 2016 at 04:56 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Robert M. 'Bob' Kelley.*



May 23, 2016 at 10:50 PM

JF

“ I was saddened to hear of Mr. Kelley's death. What a wonderful man! My children were fortunate enough to attend Honey Creek Elementary when he served as principal. He and his wife were close friends of my parents. Mr. Kelley was instrumental in organizing a group of Lion's Club workers to help care for their yard when they were no longer able to do so. He was gracious enough to give a eulogy for each of them at their memorial services and he did an outstanding job, combining his memories with love and humor appropriate for the occasion. I will never forget what he did for them and for us, the family at our time of sorrow. His contributions to their services were greatly appreciated. I know he will be missed and my prayers are with his family.

Joanna Wolf Farmer

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Joanna Wolf Farmer - May 23, 2016 at 05:59 PM



“ 65 files added to the album Life Tributes



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Scot Ward Funeral Services - May 23, 2016 at 02:42 PM

JD

“ In 1974 Mr. Kelley hired me to teach second grade at the brand new Honey Creek Elementary School. I was 22 years old and a first year teacher. Needless to say, I was nervous about beginning the school year. Mr. Kelley was so reassuring and confident in my abilities that I began the year knowing I had an ally who would help me whenever I needed him. I often discussed issues with Mr. Kelley and sought his advice whenever I was unsure how to handle certain situations. He advised me and always left me feeling as if I had everything under control and was doing an excellent job. I will always remember those years working for Mr. Kelley fondly. He was a wonderful man, father and husband. He will be missed. Julie Vassy Digby

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**Julie Vassy Digby** - May 23, 2016 at 12:20 PM



“ California Healthy was purchased for the family of Robert M. 'Bob' Kelley.



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May 23, 2016 at 09:57 AM

JT

“ I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I love you ,Joan Tullis

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**Joan Tullis** - May 23, 2016 at 08:50 AM

NI

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. Hold tightly to your memories for they last forever!*

*Sincerely,  
Nikki Mouton  
Gwinnett County Public Schools*

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**Nikki** - May 23, 2016 at 07:31 AM

CS

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss, but know your Daddy is in Heaven with our precious Lord and your sweet Mama. How happier can he be? I have heard him tell this story SO many times about your spend the night party when the owl came down the fire place and scared us so much...he was the hero to get that thing out only after video taping it flying around your den. So many wonderful memories with both your wonderful parents. Love you!*

*Carla Kelly Scarlett*

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**Carla Scarlett** - May 22, 2016 at 04:19 PM