



Richard Lang Kelly

December 30, 1946 - November 9, 2021

Richard Lang Kelly, 74, of Salisbury, passed away Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center in Charlotte.

Born December 30, 1946 in Rowan County, he was the son of the late Lang Malachi Kelly and Lois Boots Williams Kelly.

He worked at T&F BBQ while in High School and graduated from Boyden High School in 1966. Following high school, he served in The US Marine Corps after which he attended Appalachian State University graduating with a Bachelor of Technology. He was employed with the City of Salisbury for 38 years, retiring as Director of Risk Management. He was given the Key to the City when he retired in 2015.

He was also awarded the Richard L. Kelly Award in recognition of his contribution to Risk Management and Safety for all citizens and employees of the City of Salisbury and to this day the award is still named after him. In 2008 the Salisbury Post ran an article about him and called him "Salisbury's Running Man".

He was a member of Landmark Church where he served as Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, Lay Speaker, co-chair of the Board of Deacons and on the Finance Committee Chair.

His hobbies included street rods and motorcycles, especially his 1932 Ford hot rod and his two Harley Davidson motorcycles. He was an avid movie enthusiast and was always willing to help anyone in need.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his first wife, Sandy W. Kelly.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of eight years, Gloria Jane Pleasants Kelly; sons, Michael Kelly of Charlotte, Rick Kelly (Wendy) of Charlotte; sister, Donna Roddy of Lexington; brother-in-law, Will Pleasants (Starr) of Salisbury; two grandchildren; and his fur baby, Cody Boy Kelly.

The family will receive friends 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 14, 2021 at Landmark Church. The funeral service will follow at 3:00 p.m. with Pastor Mike Robinson officiating. Burial will be in City Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Landmark Church, 1910 Mooresville Road, Salisbury, NC 28147

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Kelly family. Online condolences may be made at

Cemetery Details

City Memorial Park

1316 West Innes St
Salisbury, NC 28144

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 14. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Landmark Church
Salisbury, NC

Funeral Service

NOV 14. 3:00 PM (ET)

Landmark Church
Salisbury, NC

Tribute Wall

WB

“ For all those sweltering summers, all those cold winter days running in the snow and cold. Two obsessed joggers making it in for the last mile. You were a great running mate and an even better boss. Bless you Kelly. I hope you have found your peace. I'll be leaving my last pair of worn jogging shoes next to your grave. You'll understand. I can't think of a better memorial. Goodbye old friend.

Walter (Wally) Barber - November 30, 2021 at 01:02 AM

DA

“ Richard was a wonderful man. He & my deceased Mom Lucille Barnes/Leazer were members of same church. That's how I met the southern gentleman & kind friend. He was a sincere and dedicated Christian. May he RIP. Donna Barnes Arey

Donna Arey - November 17, 2021 at 07:45 PM

DA

“ Donna Arey lit a candle in memory of Richard Lang Kelly



Donna Arey - November 17, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Lang Kelly.



November 14, 2021 at 12:41 PM

DS

“ Richard and I crossed paths several years ago because of our love for running. At times we talked, and I discovered a delightful and caring man. I always honked when I saw him out for a run. Richard would give me a wave and a smile, bringing God's love into the moment. That same God now holds him close in love. My prayers are with you all.

Dr. Barry R. Sang - November 13, 2021 at 11:21 PM

DD

“ Richard touched the lives of so many in Salisbury and his time on this earth leaves longtime friends with wonderful memories. When our paths crossed the conversation was as if we had just talked the day before. I had the privilege of working and riding with “Kelly” and his passion for motorcycles was contagious. Because of his influence riding remains a passion of mine some 44 years later.

Our heartfelt condolences to his family! You are in our prayers and thoughts as we remember Richard’s warmth, quick wit and passion for life.

David and Connie Duke - November 13, 2021 at 09:19 AM

MK

“ I am Michael his youngest son and I have nothing but the upmost respect for Pop. He was hard on me when I didnt understand why but he NEVER GAVE UP ON ME! I will never ever forget the love he had for or my brother Rick. I am so thankful for him marrying Jane. He got to spend the last years of his life with a great woman. THANK YOU BOTH FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. I love you both! I know you're running 8 miles a day in heaven. Rest in Peace POPSICOLA!

Michael Kelly - November 13, 2021 at 03:46 AM

DR

“ Richard was my cousin,, his mom & my mom were sisters. Pearl Geneva Williams Reel. We moved to Topsail Island when I was 11 years old, but I didn't see him for many years. Uncle Bennie Williams basically introduced me to him once,, I enjoyed talking with him. He was on my mind frequently when I was in Salisbury visiting my brother Nathan, I knew him to be a very caring man. I pray that his loved ones will find that our Lord has Richard in his loving arms. They're in my prayers also. With my love,,, Dennis C Reel (Deno)

Dennis C. Reel - November 13, 2021 at 02:29 AM

PW

“ I was in the ASU Bachelor of Technology group with Richard when we graduated in 1989. Our group went to Washington, DC, about a week after it was declared the deadliest city in America. Regardless of the possible danger, Richard got up early to run before our class woke up and started visiting the sites, including a meeting with Elizabeth Dole who was Secretary of Labor at the time. The fifteen of us became a family during those three years. May God bless his family and friends.

Pat Watson

Pat Watson - November 11, 2021 at 05:49 PM

EW

“ *Richard was a great man, He will be truly missed. May the Lord God bless his family*

Ernest Williams - November 11, 2021 at 11:31 AM

BL

“ *Richard Kelly was a man of honor. He always showed me tremendous respect. I shall miss him bringing Cody Boy to the church office after Cody had chased little lizards in the parking lot. I will say to him as he often said to me "You rock!". I ask for God's peace and comfort to Richard's family and friends.*

Becky Lippard - November 11, 2021 at 11:12 AM



“ *To paraphrase an Old Irish Blessing, "May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand". Rest in Peace, Richard...you were a lovely, generous and kind neighbor to all of us, especially our children, when you would surprise them with the many movie discs that you would leave in our mailbox. We still have them to this day! Milford Knoll will never be the same without you. We all love and miss you! Hugs to you, Jane*

*The Bourque Family
Peter, Ann
Kathleen, Brendan, & Molly*

Ann Bourque - November 11, 2021 at 10:58 AM

DH

“ *Truly, a piece of Salisbury tradition has passed. Whether one knew Richard or not, nearly everyone who is a resident has driven by the running man while driving through some part of town. And, that was only one way in which he inspired folks. His dedication to his own health surely shamed me in my carelessness. I knew Richard for many years to be a principled man who could stand for his principles with a cool head and a kind word. I hurt for him when he lost dear Sandy. But, he went on, even when his own health was threatened. A thought just occurred to me: I wonder if, when I enter Heaven, as I am taking my first tour around, might I see a man running among the street system there, and recognize him to be my brother Richard? That will not be a surprise.*

Dr. Alan Montgomery Hutchens - November 11, 2021 at 10:50 AM

ED

“ *Richard was the first friend we made when we moved to NC about six years ago, He was my best man when I married Glenda in March of 2020. All the memories we share will be in our hearts forever.*

Ed Daley - November 10, 2021 at 09:04 PM

GP

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Kelly family as you grieve the loss of your loved one. Richard was a true & dear friend as we both worked together at City of Salisbury offices for many years. (Ginny Petrea)*

Ginny Petrea - November 10, 2021 at 08:43 PM