Edmund John "EJ" Kelly

September 10, 1969 - December 16, 2018

Edmund John “EJ” Kelly, 49, a Lieutenant with the Virginia State Police and a 23-year veteran of the force, died unexpectedly on 17 December 2018 at his home in Haymarket, VA.

Born 10 September 1969 in Falls Church, VA to Edmund William Kelly (deceased) and Virginia Kelly, 75, he spent much of his childhood overseas growing up the son of a highly-regarded foreign service officer. After moving back to the United States, EJ attended middle school in Virginia and High School in Malvern, PA. As a sought-after three-sport varsity letterman, EJ was recruited by several universities for both baseball and football before agreeing to accept a full scholarship to play strong safety for Kent State University. His passion for athletics and supreme knowledge of the game earned him many accolades from the team and eventually earned him an assistant coaching position while finishing his degree and graduating in 1993.

Having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Justice Studies, EJ worked briefly for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Arlington Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons before deciding to apply to the Virginia State Police Academy. In 1996, EJ was the Honor Graduate, graduating 1st in his class at the Academy, and was placed into service in Northern Virginia.

Throughout his 23 years of service, EJ served the commonwealth and the nation as a trooper, investigator, member of the bomb squad, and special agent assigned to DEA, Washington Divisional Office, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force. As a member of joint task forces, EJ participated in and eventually lead teams of law enforcement officials from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and various federal agencies. His dedication to the mission and limitless commitment to his team was a driving factor of their collective success. For all his efforts, EJ was awarded 24 medals, commendations, and awards from the FBI, VA State Police, DEA, State of Maryland, District of Columbia, ATF, and others. Most recently, EJ was awarded the 2017 United States Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service and named first runner up for the National Trooper of the Year in 2018.

His passion for his work was only surpassed by his love a devotion to his wife, Katie, and two children, Patrick, 12 and McKenna, 10. EJ loved spending time with his family as he cherished his role as husband and father more than anything else. Friends and neighbors saw EJ and Katie, both athletes and dedicated law enforcement officers, as the perfect pair. On most days, the whole family could be found coaching and cheering one of the kids as they played in various local sports leagues, or on the golf course enjoying a family round before dinner. Sadly, EJ’s presence on the sidelines, in the dugout and on the golf course will be deeply missed.
EJ was predeceased by his father Edmund William Kelly, and is survived by his mother, Virginia Kelly, wife Katie, son Patrick, daughter McKenna and his brother, Kevin.

A service commemorating his life and his dedication to the Virginia State Police will be held on 3 January 2019 at the Park Valley Church in Haymarket, VA at 10 a.m. EJ will be interred at a private family event to be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the Kelly's ask that you consider donating to EJ's favorite charity, the Virginia State Police Association Emergency Relief Fund. Contributions to this fund help the Association provide emergency relief to members of the Department of State Police and other law enforcement officers and their families who experience a personal crisis and have nowhere else to turn. Donations are tax deductible and can sent to VA State Police Association ERF, 6944 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225 or https://www.vspa.org/donate/erf.html

Tribute Wall

DB

1 file added to the album Memories

Daphne Boon - January 03, 2019 at 02:09 PM

Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

January 01, 2019 at 07:57 PM

LJ

LINDA JONES purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

LINDA JONES - December 31, 2018 at 02:26 PM

LJ

LINDA JONES purchased the Lily and Rose Tribu te Spray for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

LINDA JONES - December 31, 2018 at 02:19 PM

Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

December 31, 2018 at 01:08 PM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

December 31, 2018 at 10:48 AM

WH

Katie,
Love & prayers for you, Patrick and McKenna. We love you and will miss EJ.
Our love,
Wayne & Wanda

Wanda S. Huggins - December 29, 2018 at 06:14 PM

TG

EJ was simple the best. We were privileged and honored to work with and know such a man. His dedication to duty was extraordinary with his character flawless. We loved his humor along with his quick wit. RIP brother EJ
Tom and Gwen Golden

Thomas Golden - December 28, 2018 at 07:10 PM

VV

My sister Victoria passed away in March of 2017. She and EJ attended prom together at Great Valley. I am so sorry to hear of his passing, I pray for his family and I hope he and Victoria meet up again in heaven.

Vanessa VanLoan - December 28, 2018 at 03:51 PM

SC

I grew up in Lockwood Chase with Kevin and EJ. I am so very very sorry to his primary family of origin and to the family that he created and loved as an adult. Many blessings to all of you. Love and Peace ~ Sue Casper

Sue Casper - December 28, 2018 at 03:50 PM

MC

Katie, Patrick and McKenna,

A little prayer for you,

You don't get over it, you just get through it. You don't get by it, because you can't get around it. It doesn't get better, it just gets different. Everyday…grief puts on a new face. Cherish the memories and let them carry you through the difficult days ahead. Please know that Kevin, Jason and I have you in our thoughts and prayers always.

Molly, Kevin and Jason Cerretani

Molly Cerretani - December 28, 2018 at 03:10 PM

Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

December 27, 2018 at 11:14 AM

Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

December 24, 2018 at 12:58 PM

Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

December 24, 2018 at 09:37 AM

Allison James lit a candle in memory of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly

Allison James - December 24, 2018 at 07:59 AM

Katie you and your family are deep on my mind and prayers. I am so very sorry and hope you know I am here to do anything at all I can for you and the boys. Love Allison Meconi

Allison James - December 24, 2018 at 07:59 AM

TP

Katie you and your children are heavy on my mind. EJ was an amazing man and a dear friend to my late husband. (Don Ingerski)
I hope you can find peace and know he is with many good friends that went before. Be strong. RIP EJ Kelly 💔

tina prystash - December 23, 2018 at 02:34 PM

BW

EJ, Chuck and I spent Many a great day at the IACP. Supporting the law enforcement community and their mission. 23 years ago Joel, Chuck and I watched you graduate VSP academy with great promise for one of the greatest Toopers ever. My heart is broken knowing you are gone. It I know you, and I, Will Never Walk Alone. Rest easy EJ, we have it from here.

Bob Wall - December 23, 2018 at 02:26 PM

JD

EJ was my college teammate and roommate at KSU...ONE of the best guys I know...Loyal, dedicated and full of love. Too many stories to tell but guarantee you this...we did it!

Im so sorry to hear this news. If you knew EJ...you loved him!

Much love to Katie, Patrick and McKenna...

Joe Dalpra

Joe Dalpra - December 22, 2018 at 12:51 PM

KS

EJ, even though I had gotten to know you for a short while, I found you to be an amazing and incredible man. Thank you for the time you gave us as coach of the Sunbirds. As a coach, I loved your passion for the game and your desire to help the girls on the field. You will always be in my thoughts and heart.

Keith Stanger - December 21, 2018 at 10:34 AM

MY

Ej, You were an incredible spirt that can't be replaced. So glad we all got to spend that last Saturday night all together. I just wish we would have had a few more. You will be missed by so many.

Michael Yeiser - December 21, 2018 at 10:02 AM

BK

My latest and best memory is of EJ and Patrick having a father and son day playing golf and eating dinner together at the club. They both were smiling and having fun! Another was when he told myself and a friend that he's the luckiest man to have the BEST wife! EJ is going to be greatly missed. Much love, hugs, and prayers to Katie, Patrick, McKenna, family, and friends!

Bethanie Kaplan - December 21, 2018 at 09:49 AM

LB

Lisa Brzoska lit a candle in memory of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly

Lisa Brzoska - December 21, 2018 at 09:02 AM

LB

For a wonderful man, leader, teacher, friend

Lisa Brzoska - December 21, 2018 at 09:02 AM

LJ

EJ you and your family were the first to befriend my family when we moved to Bakerwood. I am finding peace in memories of fun times our families shared together and promise you we will be here for Katie and the kids always.

Lindsey Jones - December 21, 2018 at 06:49 AM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

December 20, 2018 at 07:45 PM

MJ

Brother EJ, you will be sorely missed. You're the epitome of a STATE TROOPER, warrior and defender of freedom. Shea and I will forever cherish the time on the VSPA with Katie and you. God Bless and peace be with you!
-Mike and Shea Jones

Michael Jones - December 20, 2018 at 06:15 PM

BS

Billy & Farryl Sorokin purchased the Simply Eleg ant Spathiphyllum for the family of Edmund John "EJ" Kelly.

Billy & Farryl Sorokin - December 20, 2018 at 05:44 PM