



Richard Lee Kelley

September 29, 1952 - April 29, 2024

Richard Lee Kelley passed away on April 29, 2024. The Lord granted him peace after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Rick was born on September 29, 1952, to Warren and Sarah Kelley of Fairfax, Virginia. He retired from a much-loved federal career with the United States Department of Interior and enjoyed traveling with friends, UVA sports, teaching Sunday School and gardening until he became disabled more recently. Rick also faithfully served at Chapel Springs Church for many years and loved his church family. He is preceded in death by two brothers, Bill, and Larry Kelley and is survived by his brother Bob Kelley of Gainesville, Virginia. Rick is also survived by his sister-in law, Sherry Kelley (wife of Bill Kelley) and her two children, Scott, and Amanda Kelley of Front Royal, Virginia. A celebration of life will be held at Chapel Springs Church (Bristow, VA) on May 17, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

Chapel Springs Church
11500 New Life Way
Bristow, VA 20136

Tribute Wall



Jon
Bundrick

“ Rick was genuinely the kindest person I've ever met. He ALWAYS sent me a birthday card. He was the best tour guide ever during our Washington DC trip. I miss him like crazy- what a prime example of what it is to be Christ-like. Love you, RickRod!

Jon Bundrick - December 15, 2024 at 09:11 PM



“ *Our beloved Rick! To know him was to love him. Though he was my brother, Danny’s, best friend for many, many years, he became like family to all of us – my mother, father, brother, sister, daughters and friends, and of course, to me... Dan’s sister Carol.*

I was privileged to get to know him better than most of my family; we shared a special bond. I wish that I could be there for the celebration of his life, but it was too difficult for me to travel there from New Jersey, where I live. But I wanted to contribute something and hope that I honor him with a few words. Though I’m sure everyone has special memories of Rick, these are a few of mine:

First of all, Rick was always there for my family functions – weddings, funerals, vacations, and more. Like I said, he was like family to us, and my family loved him. I remember him being at my mother’s funeral. He was there with his big, expensive camera taking pictures of the flowers and everything but the body and the grieving people. He knew these photos would be important memories, and I hope that someone does the same for him. He was away for my father’s funeral and was always so sad that he wasn’t able to be there for it. He loved my dad and my dad love him.

I noticed how much Rick loved Dan and his wife, Val and their three kids. Since Rick had never married and had kids of his own, he treated Danny’s kids as though they were his. He did so much for them, including babysitting, taking them out to eat, and buying them the nicest Christmas gifts. Danny’s kids loved Rick almost like a father. Rick also drove up to Danny’s house every single time I visited. I was always touched by how he would do that. It’s going to be strange when I visit again and he’s not there.

Rick was a true man of God. He really loved God and I have no doubt that he is in heaven with our Lord. We can’t be too sad knowing this. I know how much he loved his church family, and his church family loved him. He was so faithful to teach the adult Sunday School class for many years. I was privileged to attend a

couple of them and was so blessed! Rick had an anointing that was undeniable. His classes were amazing!

I had gotten to know Rick better when I imposed on one of his trips to Greece to visit my brother, Dan and his family who were living there at the time. Rick had the trip planned for some time but I decided to tag along at the last minute. Rick was gracious enough to allow me to room with him, where necessary. We were basically "joined at the hip" as we toured Athens during the day while Danny and Val worked. We sure had a lot of laughs on that trip, especially when I had gotten ripped off by a jeweler in Athens. While they were serving me Ouzo, a popular Greek liquor, I ended up buying an expensive ring that turned my finger green within only a day or so. They refused to give me a refund until someone from the US Embassy told us a secret in how to deal with them. We tried it and they couldn't wait to open the cash register and give me my money back. Rick teased me mercilessly about that event forever after!

On our trip to Greece, Rick started calling me "Muffy." I guess he thought I was a little like a rich diva; I'm not sure why because I'm anything but, but it was still cute. On one of his texts, he called me "Darl'n". I loved his endearing names for me.

Rick had many talents, and one of them was his cooking! I experienced a few Thanksgivings and Christmases at his house, and wow, he was definitely the "hostess with the mostest"! His food was so delicious and his decorations were so gorgeous, especially his Christmas trees. And then he would bring out the most delicious homemade desserts, like his amazing pumpkin roll cake, and of course his Costco coffee! The man just loved Costco! Where most people, like me, go only about once a month, I heard that Rick went there twice a week! I remember him telling me that if you see something special, buy it, because, chances are, you won't see it again. I still follow his advice!

Rick definitely had 'southern hospitality.' Whereas that was so nice down south where he was from, it didn't go over too great when he

and Danny came up to New Jersey to visit me. He sure experienced the worst of New York City, even at Times Square Church, along with the waitresses at Jersey Diners! He always talked about his experiences up north and, needless to say, he never came back! But he did continue to make fun of his good friend, Judy, and her Long Island, New York, accent.

Speaking of talents, his church family probably knows what a good singer he was. I remember hearing him sing at an Easter service and was blown away! And not only his singing, but his dancing! He danced up a storm at Danny's wedding and did a mean "Cotton Eyed Joe!" This was a side of Rick I had never seen before!

In closing, I just want to say what a good man he was and how much we will always love and miss him. Interesting that he was born on the 29th and left us on the 29th. We were all deeply touched by you, Rick, and we celebrate your amazing life!

*Love forever,
Muffy*

Carol Carnevali Parkes - May 17, 2024 at 05:36 PM

DC

“*Dan, Val, Alessia, Matteo & Dante C. purchased the Divine Light for the family of Richard Lee Kelley.*



Dan, Val, Alessia, Matteo & Dante C. - May 16, 2024 at 10:02 AM

CP

“ Carol Carnevali & Cavan Parkes purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Richard Lee Kelley.



Carol Carnevali & Cavan Parkes - May 16, 2024 at 08:00 AM

CP

“ Carol Carnevali & Cavan Parkes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Lee Kelley.

Carol Carnevali & Cavan Parkes - May 16, 2024 at 08:00 AM

JB

“ Jeffrey Bundrick purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Richard Lee Kelley.



Jeffrey Bundrick - May 15, 2024 at 06:53 AM

NW

“ Rick was a friend when we worked in Minerals Management Service. Rick always had a great outlook on life, no matter what the situation. He always did more than his part of the work,

Norm Weaver - May 14, 2024 at 07:51 AM

AF

“ ANGIE, CD AND JOHNSON FAMILY purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Richard Lee Kelley.



ANGIE, CD AND JOHNSON FAMILY - May 07, 2024 at 12:57 PM

AF

“ ANGIE, CD AND JOHNSON FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Lee Kelley.

ANGIE, CD AND JOHNSON FAMILY - May 07, 2024 at 12:57 PM

DP

“ Don Popkins lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee Kelley



Don Popkins - May 07, 2024 at 01:32 AM

JS

“ Janet Sidwar purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard Lee Kelley.



Janet Sidwar - May 05, 2024 at 12:39 PM

JS

“ Janet Sidwar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Lee Kelley.

Janet Sidwar - May 05, 2024 at 12:39 PM

LL

“ I will always remember Rick's as he greeted you into his class with a smile and kind word. He will be missed by his church family.

Linda Liddle - May 01, 2024 at 10:26 AM

PG

Pamela Geisler

What a wonderful faithful servant to our Lord. So many lives were touched and blessed to have Rick as a friend. His lovely spirit for a life as a friend with love and compassion that he shared with so many. He will be missed but he will never be forgotten.

Pamela Geisler - May 01, 2024 at 05:07 PM

MB

Rick has been our family friend since we first met him at Fairfax Assembly in June of 1977. He was such a fun-loving support to us as we served in youth ministry at the church. Until recently, Rick never missed sending birthday cards to our family members all these years. We had such fun when he came to visit our home in Missouri and on our family vacation to Deep Creek Lake. Rick leaves a legacy of devoted service to God, family and friends. His love, loyalty and laughter will be fondly remembered and his friendship cherished always.

Maria Bundrick - May 16, 2024 at 03:35 PM