



Shirley Jean Kelly

April 26, 1935 - June 4, 2016

Shirley Jean Kelly, age 81, of Manassas, VA died Saturday, June 4th 2016 peacefully in her home. Shirley is survived by two daughters, Colleen K. Perdue and Sharon J. Toland, both of Manassas, VA, one son Dwight A. Kelly, Jr. whom resided with her, and a sister Elizabeth Faye Melissinos of Vienna, VA, four grandsons, one nephew, and two great granddaughters. She is preceded in death by her parents Abner and Geraldine Shepherd, her husband Dwight A. Kelly, Sr. and one son Dwight Gene Kelly.

Interment services will be held at the grave site at 12pm on Thursday, June 9th 2016 at National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA.

Flowers can be sent to Pierce Funeral Home in Manassas, VA. With arrival no later than 9am on Thursday the 9th of June for transport to the grave site.

In lieu of flowers a donation to the Alzheimer's Association would be warmly welcomed by the family.

Previous Events

Graveside

JUN 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

National Memorial Park
7482 Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22042

Tribute Wall

JS

“ So sorry to find this news article. My name is Joan Shepherd - I am Shirley's cousin - my father was Edward Shepherd the brother of Abner Shepherd. Tonight I was researching ancestry on my computer and found this article. Another cousin, Sue Gilliam Rooks has often mentioned both Shirley and Faye - but we had no way to locate either (Sue is the daughter of Susie Shepherd Gilliam - sister of Abner). I am very sorry for your loss. Please feel free to contact me: octoberx2@verizon.net

Joan Shepherd - August 11, 2016 at 09:30 PM

SF

“ I was saddened to hear of Shirley's passing but know she is now in a better place. I appreciate being allowed to add my thoughts about Shirley as we have enjoyed a long and close professional relationship.

I first started taking care of Shirley when she was working at the hospital, a job she loved dearly because it allowed her to help people who were in distress. Over the next few years we commiserated about the changes in medicine and how much we felt we were moving away from direct patient care. She was upset when she retired but was happy to attend to her husband and manage her home and garden.

She was devastated and lost when Kelly died and we had many conversations during this time. Although she still missed him dearly when her memory began to fade, he always was on her mind and in her heart.

She was a very proud and elegant woman and looking at her picture picked for this tribute page, she has looked the same as the first day I met her. Her hair was always perfectly placed, she was dressed as if she was going to the opera, and it was very important that she was always polite in our office.

She was a detail oriented person and this is why she did such a fantastic job at the hospital and what was one of the saddest things to observe as her medical disease slowly stole that remarkable mind. I have a similar mind and we got along well as I knew the intense desire to understand everything and I would take the time to answer her questions.

I hope she will forgive me for sharing a moment we had after she started a new medication. Many medications now are imbedded into wax capsules to allow them to slowly enter the body so that they can be given just once a day. The wax portion is designed to be expelled from the body after the medication has been absorbed. She was placed on one of the first medications to use this technology.

One day Shirley made an appointment to see me. She took from her purse several of the wax skeletons from the medication in a plastic bag and insisted they were defective and she was not getting

any medication. In the days before Web MD and Google, I looked for some literature to show her that this was what was supposed to happen. After awhile she seemed to accept this but I feel in the back of her mind, she knew she was correct.

As her condition deteriorated, I had the privilege to work with her children more often. We tried to do what we thought best for Shirley and she again fooled us all by living well beyond most of the professional predictions. Although Sharon and Dwight played an active role in carrying for their Mom, I feel compelled to give a personal thanks to Colleen who proved to be one of the best caregivers for a patient with this disease that I have had a privilege to know. She was meticulous in her record keeping, she strove to understand complicated medical issues and during the time Shirley could no longer make decisions on her own, showed me a compassion for her mother when a medical decision needed to be made that was comforting to me. There is a special place in heaven for her.

I come from a large family and as with any family, there are periods of turmoil that can develop. After my parents died, we made an effort to reconcile and move forward. We did not fix everything but we reached a point where we are a family again. We need the past to keep memories and learn from, but what we have is the future to live. I am hopeful Shirley's family will see the wisdom in this and have many long and lasting memories of Shirley and Kelly. They were wonderful people and I thoroughly loved taking care of them.

Dr. Spencer Feldmann

Spencer Feldmann - June 09, 2016 at 10:29 AM

DK

“ I had the pleasure of caring for Ms. Shirley for just over a year, and what a whirlwind of a year it was. Shirley always kept me amused and on my toes! I remember one of my first over nights with her, she proceeded to show me how her "pendant" made the man in the speaker talk to you. After pressing it and her laughing so hard the responder on the line couldn't hear me, she said "now watch, men will come from all angles. Just pick one" thank god the responders didn't show up and believed me that she was just a senior prankster. I am deeply sorry for your loss Colleen. My condolences and prayers are with you, Paul, Brandon, Jessica and their child. Shirley Jean is now with her Kelly, and is shopping her heart out. May she and Kelly live in peace for the rest of eternity.

Devon King - June 08, 2016 at 07:08 PM

KB

“ I worked with Ms. Shirley for 2 years. I have so many great memories with her, and a lot of eventful ones as well. I always told Colleen we could write a book about my time with her as her caregiver. We had a lot of good and trying times throughout, but I will forever be grateful for my time with her. She is finally with her Kelly now. I'll continue to pray for you Ms. Shirley! As well as Colleen, Paul, Brandon, Jessica, and Kelly.

Kallie Baxter - June 08, 2016 at 10:19 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Shirley Jean Kelly.



June 08, 2016 at 07:35 AM

DJ

“ Dwight, Sharon and Colleen,

I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. All of you will be in my thoughts and prayers during this very sad time.

Dale (Potts) Jepson - June 08, 2016 at 05:38 AM

FM

“ On Saturday, June 4, 2016, I lost my very best friend in the world, my sister, Shirley Jean Kelly. God called her home at 1:20 p.m. Shirley suffered for the last 5 years with Alzheimers. I am sure that she is finally at peace now and is so happy to see our Mom and her husband Kelly. Shirley was like a second Mom to me. When I came down with rheumatic fever when I was twelve I had to stay with my sister during the week because my Mom worked. I was in bed a year and Shirley and Kelly both waited on me hand and foot because I could not get out of bed. Shirley was pregnant with her first child at the time. The baby, a boy, died at three months of age of spina bifida Shirley and Kelly were blessed to have three other children, Sharon, Dwight and Colleen. One of our favorite things to do together was to shop. If there was a sale we had to be there. I do remember one time going to a furniture store in Marlow Heights, Md that was going out of business Shirley and I found a great bargain on some white furniture for the girls' room You had to take the furniture with you there was no delivery. I had a Cadillac convertible then so we put the top down and loaded up the car. It was in the middle of winter and around 35 degrees outside. But we were happy and we turned on the heat, lit up a cigarette, and found our way back to Manassas, Va. I guess we kinda looked like the Beverly Hillbillies. This was just one of our many adventures. I miss her so much and know that one day we will all be together again. I love you with all my heart Shirley. Love Faye

Faye Melissinos - June 07, 2016 at 08:02 PM

KO

“ Sharon, Colleen, and Dwight
I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your Mom.
I hope you take some peace of all the good memory's you have
of her and you time together
And I pray that God will give you his peace at the sad time

Kevin and Alice O'Donnell

Kevin O'Donnell - June 07, 2016 at 04:21 PM

MW

“ Dear Colleen, Sharon, Dwight, Faye, Ivy and families,

We are saddened to hear of your loss of Shirley. Our thoughts and prayers are with you now and in the days ahead. May you find comfort in knowing that she is at rest and peace in heaven's hands, until you meet again. As Henry Ward Beecher said, "What the heart has once owned and had, it shall never lose." May your wonderful memories of her live in your hearts forever.

Love and God Bless,
Bruce & Marsha West

Marsha West - June 07, 2016 at 04:13 PM

EH

“ It was a pleasure working with Mrs. Kelly in the capacity I did! Know that the caregivers who worked with her very much enjoyed their time with her, as well. Thank you for allowing us into your lives!

Erica Haddad - June 07, 2016 at 03:37 PM

MG

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Shirley's family.*
Maury & Vera Gerson

Maury & Vera Gerson - June 07, 2016 at 09:39 AM