



T.E. "Pete" Kelley

September 3, 1942 - July 10, 2012

T.E. "Pete" Kelley ~ Age 69 ~ of Guntersville, Al. entered into rest Tuesday, July 10, 2012. The family elected cremation and will have a private family memorial service at a later date. The family requested no flowers. Donations can be made to any charity of your choice in Mr. Kelley's honor.

Survivors are - Wife - Linda Kelley of Guntersville, Al. Daughter - Leigh Kelley of FL., Brother - Mike Kelley of KY. and a host of loving Nieces and Nephews.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ I remember when Tom moved from Cincinnati to Cynthiana when we were in the 8th grade. While he was an "outsider", the ever present twinkle in his eye and the smile on his face quickly won us over and he quickly became one of "us". We were the managers of the varsity basketball team that year after which he started playing and I continued to be the manager. After not seeing him for 48 years we met again at the high school reunion in 2008 honoring the 1958 basketball team that made the state tournament. We were both older, but Tom's personality had not changed. I saw him again in 2010 for the 50th reunion of the class of 1960. I was asked to say a few words about each member of our class. In part, my comments on Tom were -"Tom, Tom, Tom. How many Saturday nights did we risk our lives on Clay Kaiser Pike, Russell Cave and other back roads in your Father's Nash Rambler that looked like a big blue sow bug trying to set a new record on getting to Lexington to get to the 10 cent hamburger joint on New Circle Road. Seeking the discipline he lacked in high school, Tom joined the Air Force and became an electronics technician."

Tom and I had a lot of fun times together and I wish we could have seen more of each other over the years. The world will miss his spirit.

Jim Houston - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

JE

“ I am a friend of Tom's from high school and wanted to tell you how very sad I am to hear of his death. I lost my husband about 4 years ago and know the pain you are going through. God has a way of helping us heal and be thankful for the years we shared with our loved ones. I pray you will feel his presence daily. I never think of my high school years without having a smile for the special relationship I had with Tom. He was a very special person to me with lots of wit and personality (besides being the best looking guy in class):) :) I truly regret not keeping in touch with him over the years. We are all better people for having known him and loved him. Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts and love for him with you and your daughter.

Jean (Currans) Edwards - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

BC

“ Sorry to hear about Tom's passing.He will be missed by his ole friends from CHS. We looked forward to seeing him when he would come home for the CHS reunions. He was such a cute teen-age boy and oh my could he dance.He spent alot of time at my house with my brother Lowell, they were great friends.He wrote in my 1958 yearbook an apology to me for keeping me up playing cards all night and added he would apologize to our mom when she was in a better mood. She was very fond of him. When he would leave after a reunion, he would neer say good- bye, so typically Tom. He will be missed by so many.Sorry for his loss.

Brenda Maybrier Mc Cauley - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

DW

“ Sorry to learn that Tom has left us. He was a good High School buddy.

Once in American History class Tom was sitting in the back of the room next to an unused teacher's desk and he started rummaging through the drawers and found a large jar of marbles. He removed the jar from the desk, removed the top from the jar of marbles and accidentally dropped the jar sending marbles running throughout the room. It took the class the rest of the hour to pick up the marbles. A good laugh was had by all including the teacher. Also I remember visiting the Kelley home and as we were standing on the front porch at dusk where we saw the Russian Satellite "Sputnik" as it passed overhead. Little did we know this was a beginning for a great Space Age Exploration to follow. My condolences to the family.

Donald Wagoner - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

JT

“ I am so sorry and sad to hear of Tom's death. Tom had a personality that was so contagious ! He was definitely my number one dance partner at the youth center. My warmest memory of him was his love to dance. (and he was good at it). All of you are in my prayers today and tomorrow. Treasure your memories. He will be so missed.

Judy T Stephens - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

BD

“ I was so sorry to hear about Tom's death. We were classmates and played basketball together. It was so good to see him again in 2008, when the 1958 team was recognized. Please know that you are in my prayers during this difficult time. The gift of memory is one of God's good gifts. I will always remember Tom and the good days of growing up in Cynthiana together. May God's love and presence give you comfort and strength.

Bob Donovan - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

ML

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you today and in the days ahead. Many of us have fond youthful memories of Tom - his wit, his smile, and how he loved to dance at the Youth Center. He was such a cutie! He will be remembered by hometown friends with both sadness and smiles (and probably a few good stories!) He will be missed by us all.

Mary Lou LaCore - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

J(

“ I was so shocked to hear of Tom's death. My thoughts and prayers to his family. I always remeber Tom as the funny guy. He wrote in my High School Year Book
" To the silent genius of our class" He gave me that title because I was the quiet bashful one in solid geometry class and I graduated as Salutatorian. He and other classmates (Bill Northcutt, Donnie Wagoner, Jane Gaffin and more) use to gather at my house for some good study sessions. Those were fun times. We will miss him but always treasure our memories of him.

Jane Carol Mahorney (Morgan) - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

BO

“ So sorry about Toms passing. We were friends in high school. Several years after graduating and leaving Kentucky I was traveling near Albuquerque, NM on vacation with my family when I was passed on the interstate by someone waving for me to pull over. It turned out to be Tom. He was living in the area and saw the Harrison County license plate and pulled me over. We were both surprised to see an old friend from home and had a nice chat.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Bob - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM



“ No man ever lived closer to his chosen creed than Thomas “Pete” Kelley.

The American Creed: I Do Not Choose to Be a Common Man - by Dean Alfange

I do not choose to be a common man.

It is my right to be uncommon—if I can.

I seek opportunity—not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me.

I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed.

I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia.

I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout.

I will never cower before any master nor bend to any threat.

It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations and to face the world boldly and say, “This I have done.”

The main focus in Pete Kelley’s life was always country and family. Never tiring after 12 -14 hour work days, he always cheerfully bantered with wife and daughter about all aspects of world events, philosophy, and the future of America. A great husband, father, friend, and great American, he will always be loved and missed by many.

December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

LO

“ Dear Leigh,
I'm so very sorry to hear of Tom's death. He was a special guy and I will miss him greatly. He loved his hometown and all the people he grew up with. I have heard from several of them today and all are shocked and sad. We never think of this happening to our friends but sadly it does. I had hoped Tom would come to Cynthiana this past June to the Cynthiana High School Alumni Dinner. I ask him about coming up, but he never did answer me. We missed him. Tom often spoke of you and your work. He was a very proud Dad and by the way he spoke of you I knew he loved you very much. I'm sure you knew that, but I thought I would tell you. Tom was a unique, special, out going and at the same time a very private person. I have no bad memories of Tom and I will always cherish our good times together. He was a true friend. I wish I had some magic potion to get you and your Mom through the coming times. Just do what you think Tom would be okay with and go for it. I wish both of you well and if I can be of any help, just ask.
Tom's friend and yours,

Love,

Lowell

Lowell - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

KB

“ Ms. Kelley and Leigh....I am so very sorry to hear about Mr. Pete. I have so many fond memories of your family and ours(Rod and Lynda Hinkle - Clarke, Tim and Kelly)from my childhood!! Please know that you and Leigh are in our thoughts and prayers!

Kelly (Hinkle) Bentley - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

DE

“ Aunt Lynn u know that uncle Tom "Pete " to most has always been like a father! Loved seeing him on his visits back to Kentucky! Will miss him but know that he's visiting now with some people that will luv him and keep watch with him till it's our time to cross. Luv you

Debbie Rice - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM

DW

“ Linda, I found out today about Pete's passing. I worked with Pete for over 25 years, first with Microdyne and finally with SEMCO. He was one of the best telemetry salesmen in the industry. After I retired last year, he and I remained good friends and stayed in touch via email. I will sorely miss him and his wit. He taught me a lot about selling telemetry receivers at the Redstone Arsenal. He knew those customers particularly well. When I visited the Redstone customers, he would talk football for the first 20 minutes, and then we would get down to business. He said that is the way it is done in Alabama. He was one of the finest gentlemen in the telemetry industry. His main aim was never to just make money, but to apply his principles and ethics to every situation. He had a great "Don't let life get you down" philosophy. His favorite saying to me was "Keep smiling." I am sorry that I did not get to meet you. Pete had a real sense of humor. I recall that he said that when he worked at a test range near Las Vegas, he had been around so much radiation that he glowed in the dark, and was thus his own night light to the bathroom. I hope that some day we will both see him again on the other side. What a great guy he was.

Dwight Turner - December 17, 2012 at 08:30 AM