



## Edward H. Kelsmark

December 12, 1922 - June 23, 2021

### KELSMARK

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Edward H. Kelsmark passed away peacefully at the age of 98 in his home on June 23, 2021. He was born December 12, 1922 in Racine, Wisconsin to Carl and Evelyn (Williams) Kelsmark.

Dad enlisted in the Army in 1942 and served as an artillery mechanic with the 518th Heavy Maintenance Ordnance Company Field Artillery in the European Theater of Operations. His Company landed in Normandy 3 weeks after D-Day, and supported General Patton's armor across France and Belgium, during Battle of the Bulge.

While working as a Supervisor for J.I. Case Machine Company in Racine, he met our mother, LaVerne (Petersen). They were married in 1947 and were blessed with 7 children over the course of their 68 years of marriage.

He graduated from Texas Chiropractic College, and practiced chiropractic care in the 1950's in Sabinal, Eagle Pass, Rochester NY, and briefly in San Antonio. Dad always provided best for his growing family which led him to completely different career paths in the 1960's employed with Mason &

Hangar at Medina Base, and eventually retiring after 26 years from Civil Service with the Internal Revenue Service.

Dad enjoyed travelling, league bowling, and gardening. The family enjoyed the fruits of his labor from yearly vegetable gardens. After he retired, he and Mom enjoyed a trip to France, Italy, Japan, and Hawaii. They especially enjoyed their “recreational” fun as he would call it when frequenting the casinos making his last trip in December.

As a proud WWII Veteran, Dad was a true patriot and loved his country. One of the most memorable experiences of his life was to participate in the 2019 Honor Flight San Antonio travelling to Washington, D.C. with fellow veterans honoring their service during wartime. “The Trip of a Lifetime” covered a two day packed agenda to include visits to Arlington National Cemetery, war memorials for WWII , Korea, Vietnam, Marine Corps Iwo Jima, and the Lincoln Memorial. From the airport terminals lined with throngs of applauding Americans old and young alike, saluting and waving flags chanting “USA” to the many visiting tourists at various sites who extended a handshake thanking these men and women for their service, it was an experience he would never forget and a proud moment for all.

Dad was the beloved family Patriarch, and our Hero as he lived life with faith, honor, and integrity in his thoughts, words, and actions. He filled the role of fatherhood with all the strengths one man could. Always a welcoming greeting, a lending ear and full of sage advice, supportive, a straight-shooter, direct and a problem solver. His commitment and love for our Mother and family was immeasurable, and he set the bar high.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Claudia, wife LaVerne, and son John, as well as siblings Helen Wuerzberger and Ruth Wibbert. Remaining family to treasure his memory are his daughters Cathy (Earnie) McKee, Carla (Fred) Signorelli, Kevin Ann Kelsmark, Shiela (Gary) Franks,

Lisa West (Mike Juda); grandchildren, Brian (Holly) McKee, Michelle Aguillon, Stacy Burda, Heather (Bill) Barker, Fred Signorelli, Jr. (Rachel), Lauren Gregory, Derek West, Lindsey West; great-grandchildren Brenna Cordova, Abby McKee, Kendall McKee, Skylar Burda, Karissa Aguillon, Ava Barker, Olivia Barker, Caroline Barker; great-great granddaughter, Aubrie Ugarte; sisters-in-law Gloria Harmel, Toby (Dennis) Broege and numerous nieces and nephews.

We were blessed to have had him in our lives for so long and will miss him immensely. His memory will be cherished and remain in our hearts forever as our loving Dad. Graveside Services with U.S. Army Honors will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 10:00am at Mission Burial Park North. Reverend Bill Shockley will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital or to the charity of your choice.

For personal acknowledgement, you may sign the online guestbook at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) in the Tributes section.

MISSION PARK FUNERAL CHAPELS NORTH  
3401 CHERRY RIDGE DR.  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230  
(210) 349-1414

# Tribute Wall

RL

“ Hello Kelsmark family. Recently learned of the passing of my Special Friend, Ed, from many years ago in San Antonio. My name is Russell, aka Russ, Lyons and was born and reared in Saltone before leaving in 1964. Ed and I worked together from '58 to '63 at Mason &

Hanger.. We enjoyed our friendship and special job relationship in evaluating the quality and safety aspects of the U. S. nuclear weapons stockpile. You were blessed to have had a loving and caring Father for the many years of his life.

My family and wife are buried at Mission Park North and will be my final resting place when the time comes.

God bless you all.

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**Russell Lyons** - September 06, 2021 at 01:29 PM



“ Dearest Daddy, I feel so blessed having been chosen to be one of your daughters. The love & sacrifices you always showed to me were true blessings & were more fully appreciated as I grew into adulthood & had my own family. You & Momma gave us such a firm foundation for our own lives & taught us right from wrong, honesty & wonderful family values which I hope I've passed on to my own children to value, too. You will always be my hero & I will love you deeply forever & a day. You will be missed bunches but knowing you have been reunited in Heaven with Momma, Claudia, John, your parents & sisters gives me peace & comfort. I've said it before so I'll say it again, you have always been the best Daddy ever!  
All our love,  
Carla & Fred (Signorelli)

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**Ka Kelsmark** - July 05, 2021 at 09:19 PM



“Dad we love how you cared for us; never wanting to be a burden and offering your sage advice. You always told us " Everything in moderation" and you lived by that mantra. You lived a long life and i will miss our 'Little Eddie' doing things you probably should NOT have but you got a way with it anyway!

*This apple doesn't fall far from the tree so i know you will live on in my/our hearts. You lead by example and I am proud that i have acquired many of those traits that made you an honest and caring responsible human being. You will be missed.*

*Ooodles of love, your daughter Kevin Ann*

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**Ka Kelsmark** - July 01, 2021 at 08:58 PM



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - June 29, 2021 at 04:34 PM