



Howard Daniel Kelly Jr.

June 30, 1944 - December 22, 2025

Howard Daniel Kelly Jr. went to be with the Lord on 12/22/2025. He is preceded in death by his parents Howard and Julia Kelly, sisters Janice Fernandez and Sr. Madeline Kelly. Howard was a lifelong educator with Edgewood ISD, with most of his years spent at Gus Garcia Middle School. Teaching was a passion of his, where he spent 39 years and then for years after retirement still volunteered almost daily. Howard loved all things Italian and Irish and was very proud of his heritage. He was an avid collector of stamps, beanie babies and money from foreign countries. Howard was also a very devout Catholic, celebrating mass at St. Luke's and collecting Icons and Pope John Paul memorabilia. Howard is survived by his sister Karen Dukes and brother Bart Kelly, nieces Janell McMullan, Julia Fernandez, Whitney Schrader and nephews Matthew Dukes, Albert Fernandez III, Kelly Fernandez and best friends Eddie Salinas and Candy Ramirez.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 from 5:00pm-8:00pm, with a Rosary at 6:00pm at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 10:00am at St. Luke's Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Cemetery

17501 Nacogdoches Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78266
(210) 651-6011

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Rosary Service

JAN 7. 6:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Mass

JAN 8 (CT)

St. Luke Catholic Church
4603 Manitou Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78228

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Howard was my first cousin on my mother’s side. For many years would come stay at our house occasionally to visit NY city, a place he loved. I had just reconnected with him a few years before he passed. I enjoyed our communications during that time. God rest his soul.

Joe Carroll - Yesterday at 10:19 PM

VQ

“ What an amazing teacher. Very patient and passionate about history. I remember one time catching him in class. He had fainted. I am glad I was able to catch him. He truly cared about his students and so did we. You will always be remembered. My condolences to the family.

Valentine Quintero - April 28 at 10:24 AM

MG

“ I remember asking Mr Kelly if he would write a recommendation letter for my son Mayo to attend Holy Cross since he was he was one of his teachers at Gus Garcia. He did with no problem. He was always there for his former students. His will always be remembered from his kindness. RIP Mr. Kelly, from the Gomez Family.

Michelle Gomez - January 09 at 03:44 PM



“ Howard, you are such a bright light in the memories of working in Edgewood. So many laughs we all shared and opinions of how to change the world. Your laugh and drive by conversations will forever be ingrained in my heart. I hope the angels will be able to keep up with your fast pace of walking and your sense of humor. Keep an eye on us please, we will all need it. Rosann Guzman

Rosanna Guzman - January 09 at 09:58 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Howard Daniel Kelly Jr..



January 07 at 05:31 PM

GC

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Howard's passing. We were colleagues at Gus Garcia for many years, and I consider myself fortunate to have called him a friend.

Howard was a man of rare temperament; in all the years we worked together, I don't think I ever saw him lose his temper. He was incredibly kind, generous, and possessed a wit that was unmatched. I'll never forget the day we first met in the Edgewood Jr. High library. We were discussing history and the Vietnam War, and when I asked if he was a veteran, he didn't miss a beat before telling me he was a veteran of the "bar wars". I knew right then that I was in the company of a truly humorous soul.

Even though we sat on opposite sides of the political aisle, Howard always respected my point of view. We spent years trading barbs in a fun spirited way- in fact the very last text I received from him was one of those classic political jabs that I will now treasure.

Beyond the jokes, Howard was a man of action. When I moved to another school as an administrator and broke my ankle, he went out of his way to drive me to work early every morning. He truly cared for his students and his colleagues, and you always count on him when it mattered most.

Howard, you will be deeply missed. Rest in peace, my friend.

George Colon

George Colon - January 07 at 12:41 PM

DM

I met Howard in 1972 at Escobar Middle School when he and a few other teachers transferred to Escobar followed the new school principal Mr. Campesi. After 43 years in Santa Barbara, Ca n in 38 teaching at Santa Barbara City College, I retired n returned to SA 10 years ago. I had no idea Howard was a neighbor! He had negotiated w/ his siblings n resided at their late parents' home. Thus, at a neighborhood association event, we reconnected n learned we lived "around the block" from each other.

I was deeply saddened to learn of his passing. Howard made an immense impact on those around him, in particular, his students who have honored his being not only as a human, but also as a caring, involved teacher invested in their learning, culture, and success.

Dr. Elida Moreno - January 08 at 12:18 AM

PR

“ *Patricia & David Ramirez purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Howard Daniel Kelly Jr..*



Patricia & David Ramirez - January 06 at 10:07 PM

RM

“ *I and his other classmates called him Kelly. We always had lively discussions. He was quick-witted and sharp. It was always great to be around him.*

Raul (Roy) Martinez, Ph.D. Holy Cross, '63.

Raul Martinez - January 06 at 09:53 PM

DW

“ Many knew him as Mr. Kelly, teacher and educator, my family (the Sibson’s) knew him as Howie. We all grew up together on Thorain. Our families lived next door to each other. There were many nights when our parents would sit outside between the houses as us children played hide ‘n seek or caught fire flies. Those were the days. Karen and Bart...we are so sorry for your loss.

Debbie Sibson Walton

Debbie Sibson Walton - January 06 at 10:17 AM

SM

“ Mr. Kelly was an exceptional educator, mentor, and colleague. I had the privilege of working alongside someone who consistently inspired and motivated me. He often reminded us to remain authentic, because students can always sense when we are not being genuine. His guidance challenged me to strive for excellence and go above and beyond when necessary. My hope is that my students will one day see me as I saw Mr. Kelly—with respect, admiration, and gratitude. You were a remarkable teacher, and you will be deeply missed. My condolences to the Kelly family.



Sophia Montemayor-Villa

Sophia Montemayor-Villa - January 05 at 05:54 PM

CA

“ Truly,a great Teacher who really cared. Proud to have been one of your students. rest in peace. Escobar 82

Chris Amaya - January 04 at 08:54 PM

KL

“ Mr. Kelly, you were a good Social Studies teacher to me at Gus Garcia, I enjoyed being in your classroom, you would explain every work and homework assignment in detail, you were very nice and helpful to me too.
Rest in peace Mr. Kelly, and my condolences go out to the Kelly family 🇺🇸🌸

Kimberly Lopez - January 04 at 06:19 PM

LG

“ Rest in peace Mr.Kelly. One of the best teachers at Gus.

Leslie D. Garcia - January 04 at 01:52 PM

CS

“ May you rest in peace Mr.Kelly. I remember you in my 7th grade history class, 2001. I remember you speaking to us about Christopher Columbus and the ships. You had so much knowledge to give. I appreciate you for that. May you rejoice with the angels and make history in heaven 🙏🕊️

Claudette Sanchez - January 04 at 01:49 PM

MT

“ I remember being in his class he was always joking about hearing me eating my hot Cheetos
He was a great teacher because of him I enjoyed his class history if I'm not mistaken you will be missed ❤️🌸 love your student Marina the snack eater like you would say 😂

Marina Trevino - January 04 at 12:57 PM

NS

“ *Rest in peace Mr.Kelly.*



Nenita Pena past student. - January 04 at 12:39 PM

BL

“ *RIP Me. Kelly.*

Bernice Lopez - January 04 at 01:03 AM

EF

“ *He was the first teacher to challenge me as a learner. He had a great sense of humor and really cared about his students. Smart, faith-driven, and proud of his Irish heritage. The man made a difference in so many people's lives.*

Edward Fierros - January 03 at 12:16 PM



“ *You were an amazing teacher. Rest in Peace Mr Kelly. Give Mr Brewington and Ms Granato a big hug from me. EHS c/o 1991.*

Christianne Tober - January 03 at 12:13 PM

CH

“ Howard was a great mentor when I first started teaching at Gus Garcia. His energetic and passionate style of teaching was a great example of how to reach students. He always knew the right thing to say at any given moment. One of my most cherished possessions is an icon he gave me from his collection when he found out that I also collected them. I used to tease him that his high energy was due to the four or five chocolate milks he would drink every day for his lunch. Rest in peace, dear friend. You were one of the greats.

Carole Henry - January 03 at 12:45 AM

VC

Condolences to the Kelly family I cared for his mom in the early 90's and Mr Kelly was one of my teachers, very nice family, rip Mr Kelly

Velma Colunga - January 03 at 07:43 AM

YV

Rest in peace, Mr. Kelly.
He was part of the Edgewood family — back when working there truly felt like being part of something bigger than ourselves. I've heard so many stories about his guidance, his teachings, and the way he mentored others. I didn't know him well personally, but we still knew of each other, the way people do when a community is close-knit. It was a different era, and he was a meaningful part of it. He made a difference in so many lives.
My condolences to all who knew him.

Yvonne - January 03 at 11:16 AM

JG

“ I remember Mr Kelly at Gus Garcia middle school

joseph garcia - January 03 at 12:04 AM

CB

“ I worked with Howard for 20 years at Gus Garcia Middle school. He was a thoughtful, kind person that loved teaching. He was a good friend to many. RIP my friend.

Clifton Barnett - January 02 at 11:58 PM

BD

“ My deepest sympathy to the Kelly Family. Mr. Kelly was my 8th Grade Math Teacher at Edgewood Jr. High School in 1969. I've considered myself truly blessed to have been a student who finally understood not only the academic principles he wanted us to grasp, many times through repetitive assignments, but also recognized the discipline and motivational cues he presented to us on a regular basis. I continued to apply many of these principles through college and throughout my career and will always be grateful to have had Mr. Kelly as my teacher. I know that now he's blessing others in heaven with his instruction, discipline, and kindness.

Beatrice R DeLosSantos - December 29, 2025 at 10:30 PM

CP

My most sincere condolences to Mr. Kelly's family. As some have indicated , he was an educator of motivation and persistence. He never gave up on any of his pupils. I have always considered myself fortunate that I had educators that truly cared especially given the area or district we/I grew up in. Even in todays world of new technology, I truly appreciate all educators no matter the grade level they teach for without them , we would be in a world of trouble.

Thank you Mr. Kelly for all that you did to inspire young minds and may you rest in peace . Thank you teachers.

Carmen Perez - January 03 at 09:55 AM

BD

“ 1 file added to the album Edgewood Jr. High School 1969



Beatrice R DeLosSantos - December 29, 2025 at 03:27 PM

BD

“ 4 files added to the album Edgewood Jr. High School 1969



Beatrice R DeLosSantos - December 28, 2025 at 09:15 PM

BD

“ 5 files added to the album Edgewood Jr. High School 1969



Beatrice R DeLosSantos - December 28, 2025 at 02:13 PM