



## Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET)

March 2, 1936 - January 1, 2018

Vernon F. Kelley passed away 01/01/18 at the age of 81. Vernon was born in Hamburg, Arkansas on 03/02/1936. He was a 27 year veteran of the Air Force, which he followed as a Vice President at SACU. He was a member of the Harlandale Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite Temple and a Shriner. He was a 25-year member of St. Andrews Lutheran Church, and a recent member of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Joanna Kelley, his daughter and son-in-law Kathleen Kelley-Sanchez and David Sanchez, his son Brian Kelley, and a wealth of close friends who will miss him dearly.

He had a very full life. He loved to fish and play pinochle. Was an avid HAM radio operator and a die-hard lover of the Cowboys, Longhorns and Spurs. His years of military service and traveling with his family took him many places in this country and abroad.

Visitation 01/11/18 4pm-6pm; Funeral Services to follow at 6pm at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church with a graveside interment 01/12/18 at 9:15 am at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Kathy's farewell:

I wish I could say these words myself, but there is no way I could make it

through, and my dad already knows that about me.

I just want to say that there is no girl on this earth who had a better father than me. I never lived a day of my life not knowing that he loved me. There wasn't a thing I could have asked him to do that he wouldn't have dropped everything he was doing to do for me. I never heard anything from him but encouragement and love. He never said a negative word to me. He was a shining example of a kind man, a generous man and a giving man, to me and to anyone lucky enough to call him a friend. He was never pretentious or boastful. He was exactly the kind of person God would look down on and smile at what a wonderful man he had created.

I was lucky to have his love all the days of my life and I will always love him and cherish him for the rest of my days.

Here, he is laid to rest among military heroes and veterans, but he will always be my hero.

We recently traced the Kelley lineage back to the 14th century, only to discover we are descendants of an Irish King. He was so happy to know our lineage. So today, heaven opens its arms to receive a true prince of a man, my father.

Brian's farewell:

What do you say about your Dad? I have so much to say about mine. Growing up I was not good at baseball, football or basketball. I didn't ever like sports, or cars or any of the usual things that fathers and sons talk about or do together. Yet, with my Dad it didn't matter. Anything I was interested in – he was interested in. Anything I chose to do - he chose to do. He always made me feel that anything I ever did or said, it was being done or said by the smartest and most talented person that had ever done it in the history of the world.

My dad also loved technology and wanted to keep up on all the latest gadgets and every gadget I got he wanted the exact same one because if I chose it –

then it must be the best because “My Son chose it”. We had the same laptop, the same wireless router, the same TV and we even have the exact same car down to the year and color. The family joke was always Dad got a new device and now Brian needs to schedule an “in-service”.

I will remember many things and many stories about my Dad, but, the thing I will always remember and cherish is there is no doubt in my mind whether or not my father loved me and I know that whatever I will ever do in my life successful or not my Dad will be proud of me and will be telling every Angel in Heaven that that is MY son – look at him and look at what he’s doing – isn’t he doing it better than anyone you have ever seen?

Dad – I will see you again and when I do, I am sure we will have much to talk about in our next “in-service”!!

I love you!

Brian

Donations can be made in his name to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, Abiding Presence Lutheran Church or the charity of your choice

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 11. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church  
14700 San Pedro  
San Antonio, TX 78232

## Church Service

JAN 11. 6:00 PM (CT)

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church  
14700 San Pedro  
San Antonio, TX 78232

## Graveside Service

JAN 12. 9:15 AM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Dear Joanna , Kathy & Brian ,

*I am deeply saddened by the loss that you and your family have encountered . My Thoughts and Prayers go out to each of you and your families.*

*Mr. K was a Kind and Gentle Giant - always quick to share his Wisdom , Humor & Stories.*

*May your Heart and Soul find Peace and Comfort.*

*Sincerely,*

*John E. Huey*

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**John E. Huey** - January 11, 2018 at 01:28 PM

SR

“ 1/11 Thursday

*Kathy & Family,*

*My heart goes out to you... Your heartfelt words share that special love between you. How lucky you both are to have known that special love. Such a beautiful tribute to your Father. Mothers and Fathers should be cherished and loved so, so much. May you find peace knowing he also felt and knew how lucky he was to have you as his daughter.*

*I know the pain is so great but just know that all your precious memories will keep him close to you forever.*

*Thinking of you and hoping that you find strength with your family, friends and furry babies around you to see you through this very difficult time.*

*Kathy, may our Lord hold you and your family close to his heart to comfort you with your Father there by his side.*

*Peace and love,  
Sylvia*

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**Sylvia Rodriguez** - January 11, 2018 at 12:56 PM



RS

“ Ray, Irene, and Elisa Sanchez purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET).



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**Ray, Irene, and Elisa Sanchez** - January 11, 2018 at 12:18 PM

DW

“ Dory and Vern Weber purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET).



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**Dory and Vern Weber** - January 09, 2018 at 06:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET).



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January 09, 2018 at 04:27 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET).



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January 08, 2018 at 11:15 AM

FW

“ Dear Joanna, Kathy, and Brian Russel. My heart is so heavy at this time I don't know where to start. I have been a family friend for almost 50 years. I first met Vernon and the family at Dory and Vern's wedding, so many years ago. Your family became our family. We (my late wife Marci and I) shared in all of your families joys and sorrows. You all have a special place in my heart. There are no words to give you that will ease your pain. There will never be another Vernon. Vernon could tell a story that could make you laugh and cry at the same time. He was always animated and put in all the extra facial expressions and hand movements. I can understand why he was so successful as a soldier, a father, and a devoted husband. There is nothing that will fill your loss. Grieve as you will, cry when you feel the need, but praise God for Vernon's life, for he was put there for a reason. If you need me, I am here for you. I love you all and share in your grief.

Frank Woolf - January 05, 2018 at 01:46 PM

RS

“ Rene, Marie Ange & Brian Sanchez purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET).



Rene, Marie Ange & Brian Sanchez - January 05, 2018 at 11:14 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET).



January 05, 2018 at 10:44 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Vernon F. Kelley USAF (RET).*



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January 04, 2018 at 08:30 PM



“ *Kathy/David, my sincerest condolences to you, Brian, and your Mom on the loss of your beloved Dad. Nothing anyone says makes it better, but please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God grant you peace and comfort during this very difficult time. I'm here for you.*



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**Dora Rushing** - January 04, 2018 at 02:46 PM