



Kathryn Hope Kelly

July 21, 1950 - June 16, 2021

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling

Kathryn Hope Kelly, age 70, of Christiansburg died on June 16, 2021. Born July 21, 1950 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to the late Robert Frank and Olive Ann Kelly, Kathy was a lifelong educator and member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Jennifer Grace, husband, Wayne Radford, and her brother, Paul. Dr. Kelly graduated from Virginia Tech with a BA in English and then taught at Shawsville High School for nearly 20 years. She went on to obtain her EdD from Florida State University and then completed her professional career as a professor of English and English Education at Radford University. She is survived by her sons, Anthony, Rob Atkins and Rachel Koch; step-daughter, Karen Hodges; sisters and brother-in-law Jean and John Mullins, Patti Kelly; brothers and sisters-in-law, Dan Kelly and Shelly Mcelhanon-Kelly, Mike and Janice Kelly; grandchildren Sam, Isabelle, Larry, Josh, Lorin, Andrew; nephews and nieces, Makalay Vest Witten, Heidi Kelly, Olivia Hansford, Kimberle and Andrea Mullins; Rory, Ryan and Casey Kelly; Sean, Clara Jean and Zach Kelly; Allison Cox Skinner, Tammy, Chris, and Amy Cox; Michelle Leonard and Daphne Vangelos Williams.

Visitation and Funeral Mass are scheduled on Friday, June 25, 2021 beginning at 10 am at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Blacksburg, VA. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

A light lunch will follow services.

For friends and family unable to attend in person, the mass can be viewed live at <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg>

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to Radford University's Appalachian Studies Program. Please send checks to the Radford University Foundation and specify Dr. Edwards APST Program, #32220 in the Memo line. Donations should be sent to: PO Box 6893 Radford, VA 24142.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
Blacksburg, VA

Funeral Mass

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
Blacksburg, VA

Tribute Wall

AS

“ I will never forget her teaching English at Shawsville High School she was fun to be around and she was a chaperone for the class of 1982 senior trip I will never forget you. Remember you always !

Anthony (Tony) Matz Sr. - October 16, 2021 at 04:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kathryn Hope Kelly.



June 28, 2021 at 05:32 PM

CH

“ I will never forget the three courses I took under her at Radford University. She served on my Comps defense committee, was the one I chose for my hooding ceremony, and she continued to help me navigate the world of education after graduation. Her practical advice has served me well into my 15th year of teaching. Often, people say of their education classes that they can never prepare you for the real classroom you will one day be in charge of. That is not true of Kathy Kelly. She made sure we knew exactly what students were capable of (good and not so good), then gave us a toolkit of ways to handle the unexpected. Thank you, Kathy. You will be so very missed.

Carolyn Hash - June 26, 2021 at 07:44 PM

NA

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Kathy's passing. I am her godmother, live in Wisconsin, and have only kept in contact through messaging. I was close friends with and a neighbor of her mother, Olive Ann, another fabulous person, as was her dad, Robert. From former student posts it sounds like the endearing genes have luckily been passed on to their offspring.

Nathalie Moore

Nathalie - June 26, 2021 at 12:34 PM

KO

“ Dr. Kelly was one of the biggest influences in my college and educational career. She pushed me to be more than I ever thought I could be, and expected more of me than I did of myself. She was an amazing and talented powerhouse of learning and love. I will forever be grateful that I got to have a mentor as amazing as her.

Kriss Osborne - June 26, 2021 at 12:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Kathryn Hope Kelly.



June 24, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathryn Hope Kelly.*



June 24, 2021 at 06:52 AM



“ *Alyssa Archer lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Hope Kelly*



Alyssa Archer - June 22, 2021 at 06:37 PM



“ *My dear Aunt Kathy taught me so much. She taught me strength and independence. She taught me how to play scrabble (even beat her once!). She was my pen pal as a kid, and the first person to which I proudly wrote an entire letter in cursive. Her wit was unmatched by anyone I ever saw challenge it. She has always been an inspiration to me. I will miss her dearly and love her endlessly. She is and always will be an indelible mark on my life.*

Kimberle Mullins - June 21, 2021 at 10:33 PM



“ *Mrs. Atkins' Drama class is one of my fondest memories from High School.*

Roxanna Link - June 21, 2021 at 06:06 PM



“ *Kathy went to Charlestown, WV and Harpers Ferry with me and my wife Sarah years ago. We had the best time laughing, talking and eating. Kathy was one extra nice person. May she RIP. Glenn Cochran, Christiansburg, Va.* ”

Glenn Cochran - June 21, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ *Debi McCoy lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Hope Kelly* ”



Debi McCoy - June 21, 2021 at 12:09 AM



“ *Michele Ren lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Hope Kelly* ”



Michele Ren - June 20, 2021 at 11:33 PM