

MARY KATHLEEN "KATE" KELLY



Mary Kathleen "Kate" Kelly of Lake in the Hills, IL (formerly of Pittsburgh, PA) died March 3rd, in Tugun, Australia. Kate was visiting her daughter Meg and was fatally struck by a car as she crossed the street, returning from church. She was surrounded by family when she passed.

Faith and family were the anchors in her life. She was an active member of Resurrection Church for 40 years and daily devoted herself to improving her spiritual life. Her death leaves an unfillable void in the lives of her family and friends, and she had legions of both.

A graduate of Duquesne College, Kate began her career in Pittsburgh in social work. She and her sisters enjoyed local renown in the 1960's as the "Foerster Girls" helping politician Tom Foerster campaign. In 1964, she married the dashing Ed Kelly the day after Christmas (She told her daughters they picked the date to save on flowers for the wedding Mass.) Following Ed's career, she and her young family moved to Lake in the Hills, Illinois. She lived there the rest of her life making annual visits to Pittsburgh to visit the McGuire clan.

Kate lit up the room when she walked in. You wouldn't forget meeting her. She was the life of the party, a fierce advocate, and a friend who never gave up. She fostered a unique relationship with each of her 15 grandchildren. She was magnificent.

After retiring as a teacher at Hough Elementary School, Kate circled the world taking turns visiting her daughters and grandchildren in Ireland, Alaska, and Australia. She reeled in a 100-pound halibut, drove a dog team into a remote Alaskan cabin, danced with Russian soldiers on a walrus-skin boat tour of the Kamchatka Peninsula, charmed the fellows in Irish pubs, trekked through Tasmania and worked out on the Australian beach at sunrise.

In between travels, she treasured her home and life in Lake in the Hills where she nurtured her enormous gardens, hosted barbecues on the lake, walked with friends in the fen, drank coffee with the Bagel Boys and treasured her book and garden club meetings. She loved spending time with her eldest daughter Kerry and her family, and sister Karen in Elgin where she was a fixture at neighborhood get-togethers.

She never really grew old. People were often astounded when they learned her age. She died a few months shy of her 84th birthday on May 10th.

Kate is survived by five daughters, Kerry Kelly (John Steffen), Kristan Kelly (Tim Mowry), Kate Kelly (Graham Neville), Kim Kelly (Chris Knott), and Megan Kelly (Peter Correa); close family friend Robert Stangle (Andrea Stangle); her 15 grandchildren: Joanie, Chloe, Abigail and Liam Steffen, Logan Mowry, Tynam, Ronan and Finn Neville, Riley, Isabella and Hannah Knott, Leo, Patrick, Julian and Ethan Kelly-Correa; her siblings Joan O'Brien, Molly Finn, Karen McGuire, Bonnie Heinauer, Gerry Hansen and Jack McGuire, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by parents Mary and Joe McGuire, brother Brian McGuire, former husband Edward Kelly, nephew Brad Heinauer, and brothers-in-law Jack O'Brien, Jim Heinauer and Roger Hansen.

A mass celebrating Kate's life will be officiated by Bishop Dan Turley, O.S.A. on April 1, 11 am, at her parish church Resurrection Catholic Church, 2918 South Country Club Road Woodstock, IL. Reception immediately following.

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