

MARY KATHLEEN "KATE" KELLY



Mary Kathleen Kelly (McGuire) of Illinois (formerly of Pittsburgh, PA) died March 3, 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 her Catholic church for 40 years and devoted herself daily 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 University where she was Queen of the Festival and president of her sorority Tau Delta Tau, Kate began her Pittsburgh career in social work. She and her sisters enjoyed local renown in the 1960's as the "Foerster Girls" helping politician Tom Foerster campaign for county commissioner. She married the dashing Ed Kelly December 26, 1963 (She told her daughters they picked the date to save money on the flowers). She and her young family moved to Lake in the Hills, Illinois in 1968 when Ed was transferred. 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 was magnificent.

After retiring as an elementary school teacher, 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 remote Alaskan cabins, danced with Russian soldiers across the Bering Strait, charmed the fellows in Irish pubs, trekked through Tasmania and loved starting her days doing calisthenics at sunrise on the Australian beach.

In between travels, she treasured her home and life in Lake in the Hills where she nurtured her enormous gardens and hosted barbeques on the lake. She loved spending time with her eldest daughter Kerry and her family, and sister Karen in nearby Elgin.

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, Kristan, Kate, Kim and Megan Kelly; her siblings Joan O'Brien, Molly Finn, Karen McGuire, Bonnie Heinauer, Gerry Hansen, and Jack McGuire; 15 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by parents, Mary and Joseph McGuire; brother Brian McGuire; former husband, Edward Kelly; nephew, Brad Heinauer; and brothers-in-law, Jack O'Brien, Jim Heinauer, Dennis Finn 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, Resurrection Catholic Church in Woodstock, IL.

Donations in Kate's name can be made to: The Augustinians at St. Claire's Friary, 5440 S. Talman Ave. Chicago, IL 60632. Condolences can be sent to the Kelly Daughter's at 838 Douglas Ave, Elgin IL 60120.

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