



Gerald Alan Kelly

July 8, 1937 - July 16, 2020

Gerald Alan Kelly, 83, of Cincinnati, OH, formerly of “Portland” DeMossville, KY, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at the home of his nephew. Born on the Kelly Family Farm on July 8, 1937, he was a son of the late John H. “Jack” and Esther Donehue Kelly. Gerald graduated from Butler High School in 1955, studied at the College-Conservatory of Music and served in the U.S. Army from 1960-1962. He was raised attending St. John Catholic Church – Dividing Ridge, and when he moved to Cincinnati, he attended St. Boniface Church. He retired from BGR in West Chester, OH, where he worked as a customer service representative, and formerly he worked at the Baldwin Piano Company and McAlpin’s Department Store in similar capacities.

Gerald’s true passion was singing. Blessed with a wonderful voice, Gerald shared his gift in countless ways including church choirs. For over 50 years, Gerald was a “barber shopper.” As a young adult he started singing with the Southern Gateway Chorus and later with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Glee Club, and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society. He was most recognized as a member of the Roaring 20’s Quartet earning 7 International medals, singing lead from 1969-1983 and recording an LP. Favorite performances include “South Pacific” at the Edgecliff Theatre in Cincinnati, “Music Man” at the Aronoff in Cincinnati, “Pirates of Penzance” at Dayton’s Schuster Center, and “Music Man” with the Dayton Philharmonic. Gerald was a familiar face at community and regional theatre and area college theatre and choral

performances. In his last days, dear friends visited to sing and comfort him at his bedside.

Gerald was the last of his immediate family, preceded by 7 siblings and their spouses: John (Edelle McCoy) Kelly, Charles Kelly, Lillian (Ralph) Schweinefuss, Harry (Norma Foster) Kelly, Alfred (Jo Schmutte) Kelly, Mary Virginia Kelly Fiorini, and Ann Elaine Kelly.

He is survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; and a host of extended family and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 am on Saturday, July 25, 2020 at St. John Catholic Church – Dividing Ridge. The visitation will be from 5-8 pm on Friday, July 24, 2020, at Woodhead Funeral Home, 310 W. Shelby Street, Falmouth, KY 41040. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the St. John's Cemetery Fund, or the charity of one's choice.

Cemetery Details

St. John Cemetery

834 Center Ridge Road
DeMossville, KY 41033

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 24. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Woodhead Funeral Homes, Memorials & Cremation Service - Falmouth
310 W. Shelby Street
Falmouth, KY 41040
(859) 654-3306
office@woodheadfuneralhome.com

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 25. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. John Catholic Church - Dividing Ridge
834 Center Ridge Road
DeMossville, KY 41033

Tribute Wall

LF

“ I was fortunate enough to know Gerry through "barbershopping". Not only was he a great lead singer with the "Roaring Twenties" Quartet but also a kind and "gentle" man. During his illness I found him courageous. He continued to be present (and pleasant) at many functions even though doctoring and going through medical procedures. I also had the opportunity to sing with him and the 20's on a few occasions as a substitute bass and the experience was memorable and uplifting. My deceased wife ,Jean was a Gerry Kelly devotee. She often remarked to me that she saw so much "goodness" in him (as did many of us). We will miss seeing him and hearing his melodious voice and kind demeanor.



Larry Findlay-- a Southern Gateway Chorus member and a 68year "barbershopper".

Larry Findlay - July 24, 2020 at 01:17 PM

ST

“ With Gerry as Lead, the Roaring 20's became one of the most entertaining, and musically accomplished barbershop quartets in the barbershop society! Their repertoire spanned hilarious comedy songs and emotional ballads, with Gerry's special rendering of the lead (melody) part. Together with bass Jim Gentile, baritone Mike Connelly,tenor Don Gray-and later Bob Moorehead- Gerry's Roaring 20's left a lasting legacy of what the true barbershop singing style was meant to be!! Gerry and "The 20's" will be sorely missed!

Skip Thacker--a back row bass of the Southern Gateway Chorus,retired! :D

Skip Thacker - July 23, 2020 at 09:28 AM

ST

“Gerry is now singing “One Of Those Songs” again with those Roaring 20’s Ron Reigler, Jim Gentil, and Tom Schlinkert, who preceded him in the Celestial Chorus!

I was so sorry to hear of Gerry’s passing. So many memories of him, Ron, Jim and tenor Don Gray as mentors to my quartet. Gerry Kelly “did it first” as a 7 time international medalist, and those of us who listened to Gerry and the ‘20s sing songs like “How Are Things In Glockamora” and “I Will Pass This way But Once” knew they would never ever hear them sung any better. RIP Gerry, you will always be remembered!

*Steve Thacker
Cincinnati Kids Quartet, Southern Gateway Chorus
Roaring 20’s Fan Forever*



Steve Thacker - July 22, 2020 at 10:24 PM



“As a member of the Friendly Sons of St Patrick glee Club, I met Gerry many times and he was a true Gentleman. He was a kind and engaged participant in our activities. I know he suffered in recent years and is in a better place now.

Terry Wright

Terry Wright - July 22, 2020 at 10:45 AM

DJ

For many years Jerry was a good friend I will miss him greatly

Doug st john - July 22, 2020 at 10:14 PM

RD

“ Gerry was a great member of The Friendly Sons of St Patrick Glee Club. He was always at every event and enjoyed his role as one of our fine tenors. He was such a friendly guy and always participated in all that he could. We will always remember the party that we hosted in our Clubhouse each year following our concert at The Lodge of Montgomery.

Jerry was always there, ready to sing and participate in the evening's event.

God Speed Gerry that you are now with the Lord.

Rich and Susan Dineen

Rich Dineen - July 21, 2020 at 09:24 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Gerald Alan Kelly.



July 21, 2020 at 05:18 PM

JG

“ We met and knew Gerry through Friendly Sons and the Glee Club. My late husband Tom and Gerry were tenors together. One year we hosted a T2 (tenor type) rehearsal at our home. As a gift Gerry brought us a rose plant. As I type, it is still thriving and in bloom in my side yard. I enjoyed Gerry's kind smile and greeting whenever I was lucky to see him. There they are, Gerry and Tom and many other now deceased members of the Glee Club, watching us from on high. I talk to them often. All my love and sympathy,
Jewel Geoppinger

Jewel Geoppinger - July 21, 2020 at 05:12 PM



Turis Fortis Mici Deus / Kelly Moto "Tower of Strenght unto me is God " agus Dia is Muire is Padraic is Bridgit gui ar Gerard O' Cellaig ar an La seo. (and God and Mary and Patrick and Bridgid pray for Gerry Kelly on this day) A Chara (friend) Ray

Ray Carr - July 22, 2020 at 09:18 AM