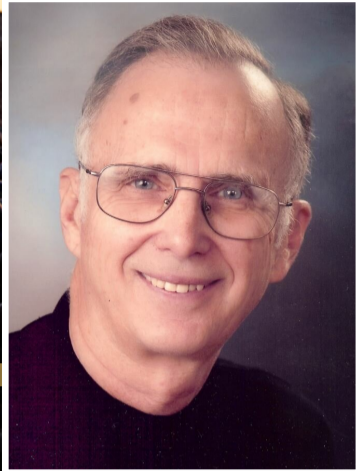


# Obituaries

SIGN IN



## ROBERT CHARLES KELLY 1939 - 2022

Recommend 0

Recommend Robert's obituary to your friends

Send Flowers For Robert

Obituary

Tribute Wall

Share / Subscribe to this tribute



PRINT

### OBITUARY OF ROBERT CHARLES KELLY

Robert Charles Kelly, 82, formerly of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Port Charlotte, Florida, died May 22. Bob is survived by his devoted wife of 62 years, Sylvia Schaaf Kelly; children Sharon (Mark) Sinton and Scott (Patty) Kelly; brother Dennis Kelly; and four grandchildren, Hannah and Helena Sinton and Stephen and Peter Kelly.

Bob was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, son of Lester and Frances Kelly. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kalamazoo College and received a National Science Foundation Scholarship in Chemistry to Harvard University, where he earned his PhD. Bob was a lifelong learner who enjoyed both mental and physical challenges.

Bob spent his entire career as an organic research chemist for The Upjohn Company/Pharmacia & Upjohn/Pfizer), rising to the highest level of Distinguished Scientist. Holder of multiple patents, Bob was a prolific publisher who presented his research around the world.

A 62-year member of the American Chemical Society, Bob was honored to work with Nobel Prize winners. He spent ten years as Editor of *Organic Reactions* and was the Kalamazoo College Senior Independent Project Coordinator for 17 years.

Bob was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying fishing, hunting, and sailing. One of Bob's favorite activities was an annual fishing trip to Quetico, Canada. Bob also ran marathons and played tennis until age 80.

In Kalamazoo, Bob was an active member of Judson Baptist and First Baptist Churches. He served as church treasurer for decades and especially enjoyed teaching adult Sunday School in later years. In his 50s Bob learned basket weaving, creating works of art from scratch by felling trees and fashioning the wood strips for weaving. Prior to developing an interest in weaving, he took pleasure in creating origami.

Bob's thoughtful nature, avid curiosity, and mental acuity garnered admiration and respect in both his professional and personal life. He was a kind and gentle man who humbly appreciated his good fortune in both his personal life and in his career. Though he worked hard and was naturally gifted, he realized that opportunity, luck, and his strong partnership with Sylvia were critical to his success and happiness. Bob's life embodied the ideals expressed by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The purpose of life is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, at First Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Memorial donations would be welcomed for Habitat for Humanity, the Alzheimer's Association, and the American Cancer Society.

#### Memorial Donations:

Habitat for Humanity

Phone Number: 1 (800) 422-4828

Donate Now:

[https://secure.habitat.org/site/Donation2.jsessionid=00000000.app30037b?](https://secure.habitat.org/site/Donation2.jsessionid=00000000.app30037b?df_id=4973&4973.donation=form1&keyword=promo&amount=25&NONCE_TOKEN=EA7285A0D68D42A643253212A588DFC8)

[df\\_id=4973&4973.donation=form1&keyword=promo&amount=25&NONCE\\_TOKEN=EA7285A0D68D42A643253212A588DFC8](https://secure.habitat.org/site/Donation2.jsessionid=00000000.app30037b?df_id=4973&4973.donation=form1&keyword=promo&amount=25&NONCE_TOKEN=EA7285A0D68D42A643253212A588DFC8)

Alzheimer's Association

**Farley**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
AND CREMATORY

Has a Death Occurred? We Are Available 24/7 | Live Chat

**Chat Now**  
**Call (941) 210-6117**

[About Us](#) [Our Cemetery](#) [Our Difference](#) [A Death Has Occurred](#) [Plan Ahead](#) [Get Informed](#) [Obituaries](#) [Contact Us](#)

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Robert Kelly, please visit [Tribute Store](#)



Connect with us to stay in touch. Subscribe to receive newsletters, educational content, and more.

Your email

Subscribe



**About Us**

- [History and Staff](#)
- [Testimonials](#)
- [Venice](#)
- [North Port](#)

**Our Cemetery**

- [Interactive Map](#)
- [Traditional Burial](#)
- [Mausoleums](#)
- [Cremation Options](#)
- [Pet Cemetery](#)

**Our Difference**

- [Our Services](#)
- [ShareLife](#)
- [Personal Touch Options](#)
- [Honoring Life](#)
- [Veterans Specialists](#)
- [Pet Cremation](#)
- [Sustainability](#)

**A Death Has Occurred**

- [When A Death Occurs](#)
- [What Happens Next](#)
- [Designing a Life Celebration](#)

**Plan Ahead**

- [Why Plan Ahead](#)
- [Free Online Seminar](#)
- [Permanent Memorialization](#)

**Get Informed**

- [FEMA Assistance](#)
- [In Casket](#)
- [Cremation](#)
- [Resting Places](#)
- [Common Questions](#)
- [Veterans Services](#)
- [Grief Resources](#)
- [Etiquette](#)
- [Legal Resources](#)

**Obituaries**

- [Obituaries & Tributes](#)
- [Flowers](#)

**Contact Us**

