



## Michael "Mike" Kelley

June 18, 1941 - November 16, 2025

Michael "Mike" Kelley, 84 of Kearney passed away surrounded by his family on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at CHI St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island. Funeral services will be 9:30 a.m. Saturday, November 22, 2025 at Living Faith Fellowship Church. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Memorials are suggested to Gideon's International. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com) . Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Mike was born June 18, 1941 in Creston, IA to Cletus and Zelphia (Billingsley) Kelley. He was raised in Creston, IA where he attended Creston High School, graduating in 1959 . Mike served in the US Navy as a YN3 on the USS Shenandoah from 1960 to 1964. In 1963, he married Helen A. Cox and to this union, his first son, Kurt was born. After completing his term of enlistment, he was honorably discharged before earning his Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Mike then earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the Creighton University School of Law while working nights on the CB&Q railroad to provide for his family and pay for his education. After a divorce, Mike was united in marriage to Georgia "Jo" Lunn Aistrophe and her three children, Bill, Kris and Ev on October 11, 1974. Their union was blessed

with two more children, Suzanne and Michael. He was a loving and devoted husband to Jo until her death in 2003.

Mike served as the first full time City of Kearney Attorney from 1976-2004. Mike's accomplishments include the state's first state of the art landfill and recycling center, the establishment of the Meadowlark Municipal Golf Course, and the The Great Platte River Archway Monument. He also worked diligently in preserving local water rights of the Platte River for Kearney citizens, taking the case all the way to the Nebraska Supreme Court where he won.

Mike was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. He loved college football, specifically the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the Iowa State Cyclones. He found his mission and calling from the Lord to witness to all that would receive him. He poured his heart and energy as a devoted member of Gideon's International with his Gideon brothers. He believed deeply in the power of God's word to transform lives, including his own..

Left to cherish the memories of their dad are his children: Kurt (Tami) Kelley of Omaha, Kristina (Larry) Homan of Glenwood, IA, Everett (Kris) Aistrophe of Sierra Vista, AZ, Suzanne Kelley O'Rourke of Mesa, AZ, and Michael (Lindsey) Kelley of Kearney; grandchildren, Zachary, Isaac, William, Lulie, Railan, Joshua, Erin, Sarah, Sydney, Alex, Finnegan, Samuel, and Charlie; 8 great grandchildren; as well as, many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, wife – Georgia, brother - Paul Kelley, sister - Jo Ann Shannahan and son - William Whatt Aistrophe IV.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 21. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
info@osrfh.com  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

## Funeral Service

NOV 22. 9:30 AM (CT)

Living Faith Fellowship Church  
3311 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE

# Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Isaacson familiez. purchased the Serene Ret  
reat for the family of Michael "Mike" Kelley.*



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**The Isaacson familiez.** - November 21, 2025 at 12:46 PM

JS

“ *Jeff skala purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet  
for the family of Michael "Mike" Kelley.*



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**Jeff skala** - November 21, 2025 at 09:38 AM

BD

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you as you go through  
this difficult  
time.  
It was great not only having you as neighbors, but also some  
special memories made with you.  
Our sincere sympathy, Bob & Carole Dreher*

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**Bob Dreher** - November 20, 2025 at 07:06 PM

PN

“ My name is Pat Neff and I drive for the DAV. For the last several years, Mr. Kelley and I spent quite a bit of time together. I enjoyed his company and our conversations. He talked a lot about his family , his job experiences, and his faith. Please except my condolences. He will be missed.

Pat Neff - November 20, 2025 at 02:13 PM

JJ

“ Jim & Monica Hughes & J.H.R.E. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Michael "Mike" Kelley.



Jim & Monica Hughes & J.H.R.E. - November 19, 2025 at 09:41 AM

JJ

“ Jim & Monica Hughes & J.H.R.E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" Kelley.

Jim & Monica Hughes & J.H.R.E. - November 19, 2025 at 09:41 AM

TG

“ I enjoyed every call from Mike, every homestead exemption year. He always asked for me and I never minded the extra few minutes we just spent talking. He knew the Lord and looked forward to meeting him. Glad I got to meet him! Such a beautiful soul! And had nothing but kindness. Fly high friend!

Terri Gonzales - November 18, 2025 at 05:36 PM