



James Timothy Kelly Sr.

April 1, 1959 - October 16, 2025

James Timothy Kelly Sr. April 1, 1959 – October 16, 2025 James Kelly passed away peacefully at his home on October 16, with loved ones at his side. In the weeks prior to his passing, Jim was surrounded with love from his family and friends. Born in 1959 to Earl and Kathleen Kelly, Jim was proud of his upbringing in the foothills of Appalachia. He loved sharing stories of his childhood with the people that he met on his journey through life. Jim was a skilled contractor who built and remodeled many homes throughout the country. He was a man who took deep pride in his work and believe that working hard was an essential part of life's balance. He left his own special mark on every project that he touched and created lifelong friendships with many of his clients. Jim was a passionate hunter who loved spending time in the outdoors. He found such peace and comfort in the tranquility of nature. He saw so much beauty from the window of a hunting blind or the top of a tree stand. Jim would often take photos of these special moments to share with others. Above all, Jim was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He adored spending time with his children and grandchildren. He will always be remembered by them as "Papaw". Jim held the utmost respect for veterans, holding in highest regards the men and women who fought for the country that he loved. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in honor of Jim to The Wounded Warrior Project. Jim is survived by his wife, Deanna Marie Kelly, and his children, Angela (Aaron) Kelly Marvin, James (Victoria) Kelly Jr., April Kelly, Jeffory (Sara) Kelly, Jacob Kelly, Deni

(TJ) Spires, Rachael (Matt) Briton, and his "Baby Girl", Samantha Kelly, and his siblings Earl (Marsha) Kelly, Brenda (Mick) Gayheart, Kathy (Terry) Kooienga, and Michael (Eve) Kelly. Jim is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Kathleen Kelly; his brother Robert (Jeannie) Kelly; and his sister Joyce (Dave) Strobel. A private ceremony for immediate family will be held Tuesday, October 21 at Garfield Township Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Garfield Township Cemetery

0466 W Sharon Rd SE
Fife Lake, MI 49633

Tribute Wall

CK

“ Jim and Dee worked on a couple of home improvement projects for us. Such a happy and "attention to detail" guy. We became to love and trust them both as we would any family member. He was always smiling or whistling his way through the day and loved to joke around. Dee and family, our hearts are heavy. We will continue to pray that you and the family can find comfort in all the great memories. Jeff and Cathy, Bellaire MI

cathy krause - October 21, 2025 at 05:12 PM

DT

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He did some work on our home in Alden and did a great job. He was such a nice person. He will be missed by all who knew him. RIP Jim. You will be missed.

Dave & Julie Tuck - October 21, 2025 at 10:01 AM

RB

“ Ryan, Kelsey, Jace, and Samuel Britton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Timothy Kelly Sr..

Ryan, Kelsey, Jace, and Samuel Britton - October 20, 2025 at 10:35 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of James Timothy Kelly Sr..



October 20, 2025 at 10:35 PM

SA

“ Jim was a kind soul who liked to laugh, and make others laugh. He will be missed by many, especially those closest to him. So when you think of him smile, and remember those times, because that’s what he would have wanted. Keep him alive in your heart and he will always be with you, Now he is with all those that went before him, and is looking down on all those he left behind! One day he will be together with all those he left behind. ☮️✝️🙏



Sandi - October 20, 2025 at 03:57 PM