



Thomas John Kelly

November 2, 1949 - June 27, 2021

Mineral Point - Thomas John Kelly, 71 passed away on June 27, 2021 at Mineral Point Health Services in Mineral Point, WI. Tom was born in Horicon, WI on November 2, 1949, to parents Hazel (Anderson) and Irving Kelly.

After graduating from Horicon High School Tom attended the University of WI - Milwaukee where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting in 1972.

Following college graduation, Tom returned to Horicon and worked for John Deere Manufacturing Company for three years. Unable to curtail his artistic desires, he left Horicon and discovered Mineral Point in 1975. As with many artists, his humble artistic beginnings provided an opportunity to work in other fields. He was fortunate to discover the Federal Cabinet Shop, providing a sustaining wage, while establishing himself as an artist.

Tom worked with Pennsylvania Dutch and fraktur, a form of American Folk art. He also began to replicate carvings of Windsor chairs, but this didn't satisfy his creative needs. He continued to develop his own artistic style, and became nationally known when Lands' End commissioned him to paint five Christmas catalog covers and illustrations within their catalogs. His work has also been represented in many shows and galleries. Tom's whimsical style, intermixed with vivid use of color drew people to his work with a desire to understand the man behind the work.

Tom was also proud of his work for the University of WI Children's Hospital, where he was given artistic freedom to create an environment for children undergoing medical treatment. If only for a moment, his creations freed children from the burden and worry of medical treatments providing an escape from their realities. His work featured 3-ring circus scenes on the children's floor, and hundreds of ornaments for a 27 foot Christmas tree in the main lobby. He painted a life size cow for Cows on Parade and murals of the Four Seasons on display at the U.W. Health and the American Center Hospital.

Quite simply, Tom was art. He had the unique talent to envision each item he saw as a part of an artistic creation. Perhaps it was this gift that led him to become such an avid collector of “fine things and stuff”.

After a courtship lasting several decades, his life was fulfilled when the love of his life, Kathie Landon finally said yes on October 11, 2008 (her birthday). Together, they established a network of friends and followers of Tom’s work that crossed geographical, political, ethnic, and socio-economic boundaries. Tom was rich with friends. Tom will be remembered for his creative spirit, love of family, friends and art.

Tom is survived by his wife and soulmate, Kathie Landon Kelly, his two step-sons Adam Landon (Crystal) and Matthew Landon, two step-granddaughters, Naidah and Brynlee Landon, his sister Sandra Mason.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held:

Sunday, July 11, 2021 @ LIND PAVILION, 411 Commerce St, Mineral Point, WI
Memorial Service at 12:00 PM

Celebration of Life immediately following from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Shake Rag Alley in Tom’s name.

Donations can be sent to: Shake Rag Alley 18 Shake Rag St, Mineral Point, WI 53565. Or shakeragalley.org

We thank everyone who has supported us during this time. The family especially wants to remember the loving staff at Mineral Point Health Services and St. Croix Hospice.

Cemetery

Graceland Cemetery

800 Fair Street

Mineral Point, WI,

Events

JUL 11 **Memorial Service** 12:00PM
Lind Pavilion
411 Commerce Street, Mineral Point, WI, US, 53565

JUL 11 **Celebration of Life** 12:00PM - 04:00PM
Lind Pavilion
411 Commerce Street, Mineral Point, WI, US, 53565

Comments



“ In Memory of Tom

Another Great Man and Wonderful Artist has left this life for another with bigger skies. My Sympathy for all his Family and close friends. You were so blessed to have this creative man in your life. Art enriches all who care to partake, but God only gives a lucky few the ability to make people happy with art. May all the happiness Tom gave to others be his blessing in the next life. May his gentle ways, kindness, and laughter be a guide for us all to love better. I will miss you as will Mineral Point.

Thank you for giving us so much.

Love to Kathy and Family,
Lynette and Robert Potter

Lynette Potter - July 11 at 11:02 AM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Leslie Reger - July 10 at 02:09 PM



“ Vicki Benke, Heidi Kent and Melissa Kent purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Thomas John Kelly.



Vicki Benke, Heidi Kent and Melissa Kent - July 07 at 01:52 PM



“ Splinter family purchased the In Memoriam Wreath for the family of Thomas John Kelly.



Splinter family - July 06 at 11:24 AM



“ Tom and his family were good friends of ours. My mother Patricia Adams met Tom and soon our walls and nooks were covered with Tom's creations. Later, they were to adorn my mother's home in Santa Fe, NM. Now, they cover mine.

Tom was gentle and fun. His works reflected those qualities. Tom introduced us to his parents, Irv and Hazel, and they were both wonderful as well.

I want to share my condolences with the family. Tom touched our lives in many ways. I pray that his spirit lives on in a gentle and happy place.

Brian Adams

Brian A Adams - July 04 at 11:38 AM



“ A fixture of joy and creativity to never be forgotten! You are missed!! Our heart felt sympathy to the family! Neal and Lyn Anglin

Neal Anglin - July 02 at 03:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diane Souza - June 30 at 05:20 AM



“ Kathy and Tom share an eternal life journey together.

Diane Souza - June 30 at 05:25 AM



“ I graduated high school with Tom but we didn't really become friends until we started working together at John Deere. We became good friends and I admired him for having the courage to quit a job that was actually envious to other people at that time to pursue something that was near and dear to him. Rest in peace old friend.

Greg - June 30 at 11:28 AM



“ One great and talented guy. Will truly be missed. Prayers for Kathy.

Terry Ottoway - July 06 at 12:20 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Nancy - June 29 at 08:46 PM



“ I met Tom once, in the back of the gallery. He was so welcoming and pleasant. His art was happy and colorful. We had another conversation at the Lind, where I was taking a class. He taught me something and I taught him something. Exciting! I enjoyed that very much, and so did he. For all of you who knew him more intimately, and to all of Mineral Point, I am sorry for your loss.

Lynn Breutzmann - June 29 at 06:14 PM



“ I can attest to the joy Tom Kelly brought to the children in the University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital over the years (as well as in the American Family Children's Hospital after it was built.) He took the time to talk to the families at the hospital while he was painting a mural, bit by bit, at the entrance to the children's unit when it was in an older section in the regular hospital. He often incorporated tiny likenesses of the child he was talking to into the composition as part of the audience. Being Tom, his mural creation was an ongoing process for about a year much to the entertainment of the patients and staff in the hospital. His decorations for the large Christmas tree were also outstanding. In the early years of the tree he would come in and help me install them on the 20 foot high tree.

I delighted in purchasing his art for the hospital buildings and always enjoyed visiting his studio and having chats with Tom. He truly became a friend over the years. I missed seeing him these past few years. My sympathies to Kathie and the rest of Tom's family. We will all miss him.

Sarah Grimes

Sarah E Grimes - June 29 at 05:06 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Kathy, Sandy and Tom's extended family. Tom was a wonderful person and a joy to have known. May he Rest In Peace.

Jody LaReau



Jodene LaReau - June 29 at 04:29 PM