



David L. Kjelland

August 7, 1951 - December 21, 2020

Blue Mounds/Mineral Point – David L. Kjelland, age 69, of Blue Mounds, formerly of Mineral Point, passed away Monday, December 21, 2020 after a long illness.

He was born August 7, 1951 to George and Kathryn Kjelland in Dodgeville, WI and grew up in Mineral Point, WI. Since attending Mineral Point High School, Dave was passionate about music. He studied the oboe, played in the band, sang in the chorus and the Mineral Point madrigal, and played bass guitar in several bands. He was also active in music ministry for many years.

Dave attended UW Platteville for his undergraduate work. In 1973, Dave married his high school sweetheart, Jo VanWagenen, before moving to Chicago to obtain his doctorate degree at Illinois College of Optometry. In 1977, Dave graduated from college and moved back to Mineral Point, WI with his wife. He joined his father, George, to practice optometry at the Kjelland Vision Clinic. He served on the Wisconsin Optometric Association board and was a member of the Mineral Point Lions club for many years. Dave created a non-profit eye care organization, New Vision Ministries, which allowed him to provide eye care to people in need in both Honduras and Mexico. It touched him to be able to provide support to those who did not have the means or access to eye care. During this time, Dave and Jo sponsored two families from Honduras, which became life-long friends. He was very compassionate

and showed kindness to everyone he met. He was known for his sense of humor and ability to connect with anyone. In 1996, Dave joined Davis Duehr Dean where he continued to practice until his retirement.

Dave had many hobbies that were important to him. In addition to his passion in music, he was interested in history, ancestry, showing and breeding dogs, and became the Curator and President of the board for the Mineral Point Railroad Society. He was instrumental in researching the history of Mineral Point and the railroad system and helped to create the museum that now resides in the Mineral Point Railroad Depot. Dave enjoyed traveling to various destinations with his family and friends. He especially enjoyed family trips to Hawaii and Disney (where he liked to visit his friend, Goofy). He always looked forward to spending precious time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, George and Kathryn Kjelland, his baby brother George, and many more special family members that were a part of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Jo, of 47 years, his children, Amy Long (Demetrius) in Cottage Grove, Ryan Kjelland in Blue Mounds, Erik Kjelland (Sara) in Madison, and Eryn Kjelland (David) in San Diego, CA. He was also survived by his dear grandchildren, Shani Long Meyer in Madison, Cameron Kjelland in San Marcos, CA, Devan Kjelland in Sun Prairie, and Amelia, Gabriel and Jude Kjelland in Madison. In addition, he is survived by his brother, Paul Kjelland (Marsha) in Mineral Point, sisters-in-law, Linda Eckels (Robert), Sue Kneeland (Patrick), Patty Palzkill (Roger), and Terri Weier (Phil), several nieces and nephews, a very special aunt, Mary Speich, along with many close cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Soldiers Memorial Park, Shake Rag Street, Mineral Point, WI

53565

Special thanks to Dr. Gordon Greishaber, Upland Hills Health, the doctors and staff at Saint Mary's Hospital, UW Hospital, Select Specialty Hospital, and SSM Home Health, for taking such good care of Dave during his illness. A huge thank you to all the prayer warriors and friends and families for keeping in touch with phone calls and visits. He truly appreciated and loved all of you.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

800 Fair Street
Mineral Point, WI

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 7. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Soldiers Memorial Park
Shake Rag Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Tribute Wall

TH

“ Ancestry estimates that David and I are 4th to 6th cousins on my mother's side. I have a copy of the "Kjellands in America" book in which David and my ancestors are listed. I was just about to message David in ancestry when I noted his date of passing. I am grateful to the ancestry work he has collected. His photo collection is a blessing to me as I'm compiling mine.

Thank you for this obituary. I very much would have liked this distant cousin. I am sorry for his passing. I appreciate his legacy.

Tamara Howe, Waldo, Wisconsin

Tamara Singleton Howe - November 16, 2023 at 10:11 AM



“ *David L. Kjelland*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM

EM

“ *Jo and family,*
I'm so sorry to hear about David's passing. He was so wonderful to work with the few times I was able to work in Dodgeville. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.
Emily Parker

Emily - January 14, 2021 at 02:50 PM

JP

“ *Dr. David was such a sweet and kind man. I have such great memories of his friendly demeanor as my eye Dr. With thoughts, prayers and sympathy,* *Judy and Doug Pelton*

Judy Pelton - January 09, 2021 at 03:54 PM

SB

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers to all. God Bless!

Sharon Byrne - December 24, 2020 at 12:24 PM

PA

“ Peter, Gavin, Travis, Erik, & Adam purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of David L. Kjelland.



Peter, Gavin, Travis, Erik, & Adam - December 24, 2020 at 10:24 AM

TN

“ Jo,
Tom and I are so very sorry for your loss. We will both remember David with fond memories.

Tom and Lisa Nicolai

Tom & Lisa Nicolai - December 23, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David L. Kjelland.



December 22, 2020 at 01:41 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of David L. Kjelland.*



December 21, 2020 at 07:31 PM



“ *Sharing your loss of a fine man. I had the privilege to have his father as well as Dave for my eye care all my years of wearing glasses since getting them in 2nd grade. He wore many hats and wore them well. Hugs, love and prayers sent your way. Rosalie R. May*

Rosalie R. May - December 21, 2020 at 06:28 PM



My heart goes out to you. It hard losing your dad. So sorry for your loss. May God Bless you and your family at this time.

Marcia Summerfield - December 21, 2020 at 07:44 PM



Dave was a good friend and fine person. A loss to us all!

Dave Martens - December 21, 2020 at 08:01 PM



I'm sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He was always so pleasant when we visited for our eye care. In addition, we shared a love of musicianship and our discussions always drifted to bands of the past and music of our era. He was very proud of his family and their accomplishments. Heartfelt sympathy goes out to Jo and your entire family.

Yvonne McIntyre - December 22, 2020 at 12:19 PM



Jo, so sorry for your lost, prayers go out to you and your children.

Deb Egan - December 23, 2020 at 03:48 AM

TS

Jo, I am so sorry about Dave, I just heard about it from brother Jim. Sending you my love and prayers.

Tom Sherry - December 24, 2020 at 08:05 PM

PM

Dr David was awesome. I starting seeing him his first year and continuing even when I grew up and moved away. Day one when I broke my first set of glassess and countless times after that Dr David and Jane fixed me right up. He was like an old friend and we had great visits. I will never forget you.

Pam Mitchell - December 26, 2020 at 02:16 AM

DL

Jo and family. My sincere sympathies.

Dave Loker - January 18, 2021 at 05:22 PM