



Douglas Clare Kelsey

November 21, 1949 - April 22, 2018

Douglas Clare Kelsey, a happy, honest friend of many, died peacefully on Sunday, April 22, 2018 in Kalamazoo. Doug, 68, of Vermontville, was born November 21, 1949 in Lansing, the son of Dr. Lewis Donald and Hildred Louise (Figg) Kelsey. He graduated from Maple Valley High School in 1967 before earning a Bachelor Degree in political science and history from Olivet College, and a Master's Degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. He also graduated from the Institute of Organizational Management through Notre Dame University.

Doug held many esteemed positions throughout his career. He started with the Michigan Auto Parts Association in membership benefits before moving to the Michigan Floral Association. He worked 3 years as the Director of Education and Certification for the Professional Insurance Agents of Michigan followed by serving as Director of Member Programs for the National Hearing Society and administered the National Board of Certification for hearing instruments and specialists. He served as CEO and President of the Michigan Home Health Association for 2 years before 8 years as Executive Director of the Association of Builders and Contractors of Central Michigan. He formed his own firm, Kelsey Consulting and Management Group until 2008, when he went to part time project consultant for the Dispute Resolution for Education Resources. He held distinctions as Past President of Michigan Chapter of Meeting Professionals International and as a certified Association Executive.

Doug loved Vermontville. He served as Master of Ceremonies for the Syrup Festival for 35 years and was named the festival's Grand Marshal for 2018. Throughout his many years of public service, he always remained fiercely dedicated to his home town. He spent much of his time with friends. He enjoyed time on the golf course - as long as no score was kept - and enjoyed the occasional good scotch or bourbon. Doug will be remembered for his quick wit and approachable nature. He made a difference in many lives and maintained his friendships throughout his life.

Friends are encouraged to support Doug's family at visitation and funeral services. Funeral services are Friday, April 27, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Vermontville with Rev. Pool officiating. Visitation will be at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte on Thursday, April 26, from 3-5 p.m. and 7-9:00 p.m. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to The Maple Valley Scholarship Fund. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Doug on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

10911 Vermontville Hwy
Vermontville, MI 49096

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **26**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

APR **27**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church - Vermontville
110 South Main
Vermontville, MI 49096

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Douglas Clare Kelsey*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 26, 2018 at 09:20 AM

TM

Doug, I hardley knew ye! Tom Mc.

Tom McWhorter - April 28, 2018 at 05:10 PM



“ *Doug and I shared a love of Vermontville, maple syrup, the Festival, graduates of Maple Valley, former members of Michigan Society of Association Executives and alumni of Olivet College(he in '72 and I in '74). He was the person you could always depend on to help our town or MVHS.*

It was Doug's voice for the main parade and Gene and Mary Fisher for the kid's parade, every Maple Syrup Festiival Saturday.

May Doug's legacy always be remembered in our little valley of maples.

Larry Wiinegar

Larry Winegar - July 31, 2018 at 07:26 PM

FW

“ Doug was one of my favorite clients. I have cut his hair for the last 17 years. Always quick witted and full of stories. My heart aches for his family, and Miss Sugar. Rest in peace my friend, you will be sorely missed!
Faith

Faith Waugh - April 28, 2018 at 12:50 PM

LH

“ My first memory of Doug was our first day of kindergarten! We were classmates all the way through high school and I will miss hearing his voice at the Syrup Festival parade. I also enjoyed our time together working with our classmates planning our reunion last year. May God bless his family and his buddy Sugar. Will miss you my friend Lana Holly. (Noethrup).

Lana Hollu - April 26, 2018 at 01:50 PM

LH

Northrup that is.

Lana Hollu - April 26, 2018 at 01:52 PM

-S

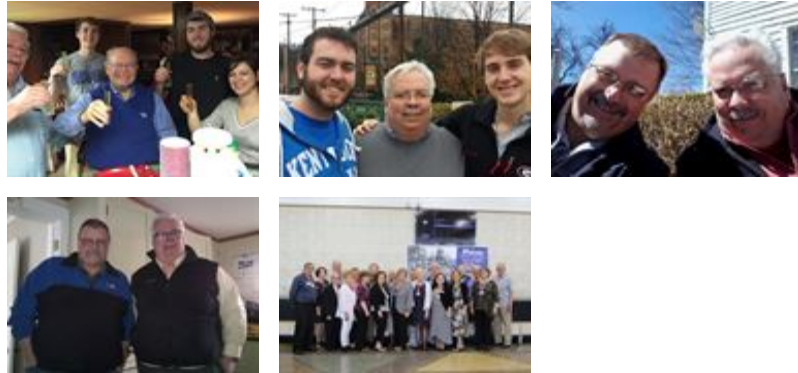
“ - Staples West Lansing Store purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Douglas Clare Kelsey.



- Staples West Lansing Store - April 26, 2018 at 10:47 AM



“ 19 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 26, 2018 at 10:33 AM



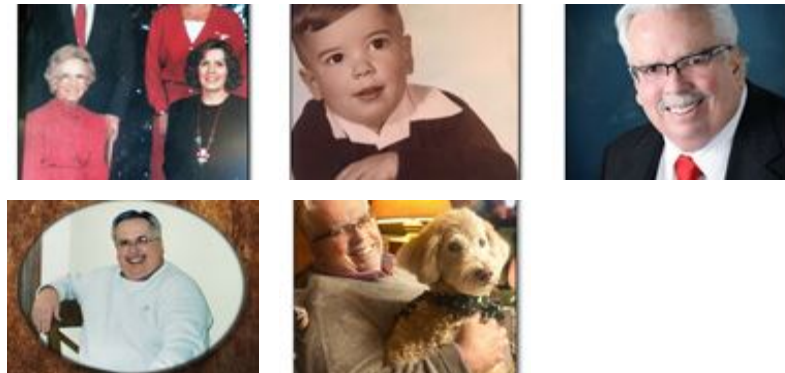
“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Douglas Clare Kelsey.



April 26, 2018 at 09:14 AM



“ 27 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 26, 2018 at 08:01 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Douglas Clare Kelsey.*



April 25, 2018 at 07:26 PM



“ *My earliest memory of Doug was when he would come to school to pick up his Mom on Fridays and take her down to The Sugar Hut for a snack. We also enjoyed fun times together at Duck Lake, the Syrup Festival, and just visiting in his kitchen around the table. Doug and my late husband graduated from MV together, and Doug was our best man. Thanks for the good memories; you will be missed.*

Suzanne Ramsey

S. Ramsey - April 25, 2018 at 05:00 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Douglas Clare Kelsey.*



April 25, 2018 at 02:39 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Douglas Clare Kelsey.*



April 25, 2018 at 02:33 PM

SK

“ Doug was a kind, gentle, caring man who always maintained a very positive spirit and outlook on life. He was a "giver" and will be sorely missed. I'm thankful we were in the "class of 67" and will cherish memories of that time together.

Sarah Hansen Kenyon

Sarah Kenyon - April 25, 2018 at 10:00 AM

TM

“ Mr. Vermontville, Good Bye old buddy for now, I lift my hand in toast, that this will be the start of a happy journey and that Sugar will meet up with you in due course. Tom McWhorter, Venice, Fl.

Tom McWhorter - April 25, 2018 at 04:02 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Cheryl - April 24, 2018 at 07:46 PM

FM

“ Family Savings Magazine purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Douglas Clare Kelsey.



Family Savings Magazine - April 24, 2018 at 01:32 PM

NG

“ *My sincere condolences to Doug’s family. Doug and I are both members of Maple Valley class of ‘67. Growing up I didn’t really know Doug all that well, but over the last few years I’ve had the chance to see his kind and caring nature. The community of Vermontville is going to feel his loss for many years to come. He really cared.*

Nicki Gillette - April 24, 2018 at 10:56 AM

MC

“ *One of the most kind and gentle souls I've ever known. A humble man who truly loved Vermontville, education and supporting youth projects. I will miss you my friend.*

Monique Colizzi - April 23, 2018 at 05:25 PM