



Robert Alan Kelly

September 29, 1950 - February 22, 2026

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Robert Alan Kelly, owner of Ruth Kelly Studio, passed away February 22, 2026 in Muskogee at the age 75. He was born on September 29, 1950, in Santa Cruz, California, to Ruth Carter (Kelly) and Charles Buck Kelly.

Robert attended Central High School in Muskogee, graduating in 1969 where he also met the love of his life Aleta "Sam" Severance. He had a lineman's dream come true when he intercepted a pass and returned it 92 yards for a touchdown. He stole a kiss from the most gorgeous red head he had ever seen. He was also named to the 1968 Oklahoma Seven All Conference Football Squad.

Robert married his high school sweetheart on April 17, 1970. Three children were born to this marriage.

He later earned his bachelor's degree in education from Northeastern State University graduating in the spring of 1974. After college, he returned home to Muskogee to work alongside his parents in the family photography business. When Robert began working with his parents, the studio primarily focused on senior portraits. Through his vision, leadership, and dedication, he was instrumental in expanding the business into school photography across Oklahoma. Under his influence, the company grew to photograph more than 580,000 students each year statewide and now produces yearbooks for schools all across Oklahoma. Every photograph is proudly produced in

Muskogee, reflecting Robert's commitment to quality, community, and keeping the work local. His leadership helped establish the company as the only Oklahoma-based photography business.

A respected Master Photographer, Robert earned recognition for both his artistic talent and professionalism. He was a member of the Professional School Photographers of America, the School Photographers of California, the Photo Marketing Association (PMA), and the Progressive Professional Portrait Photographers.

One of Robert's greatest passions was football photography. For more than 20 years, he photographed Oklahoma football and bowl games, where he was known for capturing high-energy action shots. He loved freezing the perfect moment and took great pride in documenting the tradition of Oklahoma football.

Outside of his professional life, Robert loved exploring throughout the world with his family by his side. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, traveling across the country pursuing his love of the outdoors.

Robert was a proud 32nd Degree Master Mason and a member of Trinity Lodge No. 502, Muskogee Bedouin Shrine, Muskogee Jesters, Evening Optimist Club, Elks Club, and Muskogee County Republicans. He was involved with the Muskogee Science Fair every year and was a proud supporter of Oklahoma Public Schools.

Above all, Robert was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother. He is survived by his wife Sam of 55 years; his children Jason Kelly of Tulsa; Charli Mosteller and her husband, Gabe of Fort Gibson, Robbie Kelly and his wife, Nichole of Muskogee; his sister, Kelly Eddington of Montana; his cousin, Ken Epperson and his wife Judy; and his grandchildren Buckey Kelly, Finn Mosteller, Hayes Mosteller, Parker Kelly, Carsyn Kelly, and Tucker Kelly. He was preceded in death by his parents, Buck and Ruth Kelly.

Robert's steady presence, dependability, honesty and quiet strength will be remembered by all who knew him. His legacy of integrity, service, and dedication to family, community, and education will continue for generations.

Honorary Pallbearers include Joe Gordon, Steve Grober, Jeff Lashley, John Little, Tom Linihan, Roger Sharp, Lou Skaggs, Danny Spurlock and Tom Stiles.

Robert also loved his Ruth Kelly girls, Carol Cole, Holly Jackson and Stacy Willhite.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Muskogee High School Football, Attn: Dale Condict, 3200 East Shawnee Road, Muskogee, OK. Make checks payable to: Muskogee Football, in Robert's memory.

Robert will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Funeral service for Robert Kelly will be held at Boulevard Christian Church on Wednesday March 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. with Harry Fitzgerald officiating. A private family interment will be at Greenhill Cemetery on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Boulevard Christian Church
1700 W. Shawnee
Muskogee, OK 74401

Tribute Wall

MK

“ Mike, Janiece and Bill, Rosie Kelly purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Robert Alan Kelly.



Mike, Janiece and Bill, Rosie Kelly - March 30 at 12:28 AM

BP

“ BOOMER SOONER! ~ Holly Parker-Hubbell purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Robert Alan Kelly.



BOOMER SOONER! ~ Holly Parker-Hubbell - March 03 at 03:30 PM

BP

“ BOOMER SOONER! ~ Holly Parker-Hubbell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Alan Kelly.

BOOMER SOONER! ~ Holly Parker-Hubbell - March 03 at 03:30 PM

DW

“ I worked for Robert for many years back in the 80's. He was so good to me. He really spoiled me... But mostly he spoiled me when I was pregnant with my babies for several of those years and he always made an effort to make things comfortable for me when I was pregnant... Not to say he didn't already do this, because he did. He was a great boss and friend.

Diana Wilson - March 03 at 03:12 PM



“ 125 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - March 02 at 03:45 PM

DB

“ *Debra and Jerry Bitterman lit a candle in memory of Robert Kelly*



Debra and Jerry Bitterman - March 02 at 03:46 AM

PG

“ *My family was friends with Robert and his family in our childhood neighborhood. He and Sammie were so special to my mom and dad during their senior years. I'm sad for this loss. Love and condolences to Robert's family. Pat Compassi*

Pat Compassi Gatti - March 01 at 09:11 AM



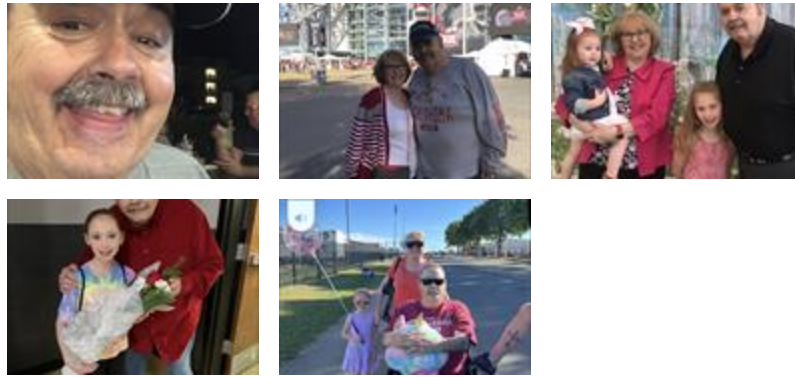
“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Alan Kelly.*



March 01 at 12:24 AM



“ *The girls ❤️ love their Papa!!* □



Nichole Kelly - February 27 at 04:04 PM



“ *Carol Cole lit a candle in memory of Robert Kelly*



Carol Cole - February 27 at 12:21 PM

CB

“ *Cindy and Mike Buckskin lit a candle in memory of Robert Kelly*



Cindy and Mike Buckskin - February 26 at 05:25 PM

JL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jeff Lashley - February 26 at 09:43 AM

ND

I am so sorry for your loss, Sammie. I remember well the great times we had when my mother's shop shared a back room with the old studio. Robert always kept us laughing. I stopped in to see Robert a few years ago. I really enjoyed our visit. He was a heck of a good guy.

Nancy Dean - March 26 at 01:57 AM

JL

“ *Look at these two GANSTERS!
Looking good boys lol*

Jeff Lashley - February 25 at 07:41 PM

CC

“ *CHERYL CUNNINGHAM lit a candle in memory of Robert Kelly*



CHERYL CUNNINGHAM - February 25 at 04:48 PM

SM

“ *shelly moore lit a candle in memory of Robert Kelly*



shelly moore - February 25 at 02:12 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Alan Kelly.*



February 25 at 12:53 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Alan Kelly.*

February 25 at 12:53 PM

DN

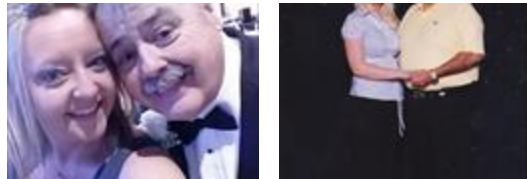
“ *Debby and Mary Newman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Alan Kelly.*



Debby and Mary Newman - February 25 at 11:58 AM



“ *I've been at the studio for 24 years and it will never be the same without him.
The memories I have with him I will forever cherish!*



Stacy Willhite - February 24 at 08:37 PM



I love these!

Holly Guthrie Jackson - February 26 at 05:12 PM

JD

*Have some really great memories of Robert as friend and as my boss.
He will be missed. RIP my friend.*

Jack Dryden - February 26 at 09:04 PM

SW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Stacy Willhite - February 24 at 03:50 PM

JL

“ Robert was a great friend a very generous man and has been so good to me and my family he is going to be missed greatly my families thoughts and prayers To the whole family



Jeff Lashley - February 24 at 12:55 PM

JL

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jeff Lashley - February 24 at 12:53 PM