



Honorable Duane Kelleher

November 6, 1927 - May 2, 2015

Duane Joseph Kelleher, 87, died peacefully surrounded by love, at his home at the Hermitage of Roanoke, the evening of May 1, 2015.

Duane was a Federal Bankruptcy Judge for 26 years for the Southern District of Ohio including Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton and 45 other counties. He had been serving as Chief Judge for seven years at the time of his retirement in 1986. Duane was a proud veteran of World War II. After service in the Marine Corps and attendance at Ohio State University where he met Jo Ann, they married and raised their family in Old Beechwold, a neighborhood of Columbus. They were longtime members of Our Lady of Peace and then St. Timothy's Catholic Church.

Known to many as "Irish", he was a long-time Boy Scoutmaster, an avid golfer, an excellent duplicate bridge player, a life-time member of the Knights of Columbus and a Buckeye Football Usher for 37 years. Irish was a talented whistler, enjoyed singing and surprised family and friends when he played the part of Old Joe in a Community Theatre production of "The Girls of 509". He was known for his integrity, temperate speech, and rarely forgetting a name. After retirement, Irish and Jo wintered as snowbirds in Edgewater, Florida. They provided a respite for many children over the years and a warm gathering place until his final days.

Survived by beloved wife of nearly 65 years, Jo Ann Mary Haidet Kelleher, their children and spouses Kevin Charles (Michelle), Dori Ann (Steve Davis), Brian Joseph (Janet), Douglas Duane (Teresa), and Susan Kathleen (Joseph Golden), their 12 grandchildren Meghan and Molly; Caitlin, Brooklyn and Madison; Cathy, Ryan and Giuliana; Kelsey; Allyse, Jocelyn and Rebecca; and great-grandson, Patrick with two more on the way! Born in 1927 in Alliance, Ohio of Timothy and Ethel (Ruffier) Kelleher, he was one of seven children.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Tim and Jim, sisters Janet Marteney and Katie Hardy, nephews Timmy Kelleher, Jamie Kelleher, Mitch Frantz, niece Sandy Marteney and grand-niece Amy Jo.

He is survived additionally by sisters Effie Jones, Carol Frantz, sister-in-laws Ann and Barb along with a multitude of loving nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Papa was greatly respected and much loved. Having lived a long, full life - he will yet be

very dearly missed.

The family will receive friends on Saturday May 9, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Alliance. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the Rev. Matthew J. Mankowski as Celebrant. Interment will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Good Samaritan Hospice of Roanoke or to The National Foundation for Cancer Research.

Arrangements are by the Sharer-Stirling-Skivolocke Funeral Home. Online condolences can be given at www.sharerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

1215 E. State Street
Alliance, OH, 44601

Events

MAY **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

9

St. Joseph Catholic Church
427 E. Broadway St., Alliance, OH, US, 44601

MAY **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

9

St. Joseph Catholic Church
427 E. Broadway St., Alliance, OH, US, 44601

Comments



“ We are so sorry to hear about the loss of Irish. Please accept our condolences. We remember all the fun golf trips we had together.
Sincerely,
Marge & Don Monnot

Don Monnot - May 10, 2015 at 06:18 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Kelleher and Dori,
So sorry to read of Mr. Kelleher's death. His wonderful memories and the impact he had on your lives will be here forever. I've been thinking about you guys since I read his obituary.
Blessings,
Elaine Seidel Guilfoyle

elaine guilfoyle - May 08, 2015 at 07:53 AM



“ Dear Family. We were saddened to hear of Duane's death. Altho it's been years since we were next door neighbors we remember you all fondly. What great neighbors and what a great family. One of the comforting sounds I would hear on the weekend mornings were Irish working away outside and whistling. Always warmed my heart.
You have our deep condolences but also so happy that you had such a terrific husband and father.

Carrole and John Roberts.

CARROLE AND JOHN ROBERTS - May 07, 2015 at 04:21 PM



“ Rody and I send our sincere condolences to Jo Ann and all the Kelleher family. I owe Duane more than I can ever express. From 1967 through 1975 I served with him in the Columbus bankruptcy court and he taught me how to be a judge. Some may remember that after Duane retired as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court in 1986, Smith & Schnacke recruited him to be a partner at their Columbus Ohio law office where for two years he negotiated corporate reorganization plans. But as excellent a lawyer as he was, Duane missed the bench and, of course, never lost his love for golf. Twice during those years Duane took a two month leave of absence to help out on the federal bankruptcy bench in Florida. Significantly those months happened to be in the winter. One of the young lawyers whom Duane mentored prepared a calling card for him, parodying a TV Western of the 80s, “Have golf clubs and gavel, will travel.” Duane made the world a better place, Rody and I miss him deeply. We are sure the angels are leading him into Paradise.
Jack Dilenschneider.

John Dilenschneider - May 06, 2015 at 10:09 AM



“ God Bless/RIP, to ALL who served in WWII. The USA would Not be as it is today. Thank YOU for your service in The Corps, Judge Kelleher..... And Semper Fi. Sir.



Herb Guyer-Sharfenaker USMC - May 06, 2015 at 10:00 AM



“ Such a welcoming, good man! I had the opportunity to visit Mr. and Mrs. Kelleher each spring when I traveled to Florida with my mother Gloria Smith. Ever generous and hospitable, it was always the highlight of our trip to see these dear friends of our family. So many fond memories revolve around the Kelleher family and Duane in particular, from ushering Ohio State football games and camping in Shenadoah National Park to my first ever trip to Florida and the joys of a pop-up camper. Just a few years ago, he took my mother and I to see some manatees, because neither my mom nor I had ever seen one. I could not ask for a better family to grow up with during my childhood in Old Beechwold than the Kellehers, and it's a testament to his hospitality that I have many cherished memories of my time with his family. Thank you for all of this, Mr. Kelleher. You will be dearly missed. Warmly, Brendan Smith

Brendan Smith - May 05, 2015 at 07:24 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Honorable Duane Kelleher .



May 05, 2015 at 01:26 PM



“ Dear Jo Ann and the entire Kelleher family - I was saddened to read about the passing of my colleague and friend. We served together on the Bankruptcy Bench for many years and he provided much needed guidance and support to me as I learned the very important role that we both were honored to have. Duane will remain a fond memory for all of us that were privileged to know him. Mary and I send our thoughts to all of you as you deal with your loss. Fondly, Bob Sidman

Robert Sidman - May 05, 2015 at 06:51 AM



“ The Bradley Free Clinic purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Honorable Duane Kelleher .



The Bradley Free Clinic - May 04, 2015 at 04:39 PM