

James Michael Kelly

July 14, 1948 - March 13, 2025

James Kelly, born on July 14, 1948, in Joplin, Missouri, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2025, at the age of 76. James was the beloved son of Basil and Juanita Kelly.

James grew up in Joplin, where he made lifelong friends and brought joy to those around him with his infectious humor and love for life. A proud graduate of Joplin High School in 1966, he continued his education at Missouri Southern State University, earning his degree in 1970. He went on to build a successful career at Phillips Petroleum, where he was admired by colleagues for his dedication and mentorship.

A man with an adventurous spirit, James loved to travel and explore new horizons. He had a soft spot for cats, finding comfort and joy in their company. Known as a jokester with a big heart, he brightened every room he entered and cherished being a great friend to all. He found immense fulfillment in mentoring young people, offering them wisdom and encouragement, and took meticulous care of everything he owned, a testament to his respect for life and the world around him.

James is survived by his cherished nephew, Joe Kelly; great-nieces Aubree, Riley, and Regan Kelly; great-great-niece Ayla Kelly; great-great-nephew Judah Silvers; and his loving sister-in-law, Margaret Kelly. His family and friends will miss his laughter, stories, and the kindness he shared so effortlessly.

James leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and meaningful connections. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A celebration of his remarkable life will be held to honor the man who brought so much joy to others.

May his memory live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Funeral arrangement under the care of
[Floral Haven Funeral Home, Cemetery & Crematory](#)

