



# Cornelius Anthony Kelly

JAN 9, 1932 - JAN 19, 2025



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Funeral Home and Cremation Services

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# Cornelius Anthony Kelly

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**C**ornelius (Neil) A. Kelly, Major US Army, Retired, went home to the Father. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years Catherine, who was by his side during his years in military service. He entered service as a Private 19 February 1951, commissioned 27 October 1955 and retired 31 January 1973. He served various tours of duty including Vietnam and Korea. He considered his award of the Combat Infantry Badge his highest award, a miniature of which he always wore in his suit jacket lapel. Neil and Catherine were married in their home parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Long Island City, NY July 2, 1955. He had numerous tours of duty throughout Europe and Asia and Catherine accompanied him on as many tours as possible. He is survived by his children Kevin (born Ft. Rucker, AL), Stephen and Neil (both born Munich, Ger.), 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, throughout the country. Neil is preceded by two children, Patricia and Christopher (both born Ft. Benning, GA). Upon retirement Neil studied Traffic Engineering and Business Administration while working for the Bureau of Traffic Engineering, NJDOT, retiring 1 April 1995 as Principal Traffic Investigator . He was a member of the Catholic Community of St. Paul, Leesburg, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated.

In lieu of flowers, Neil requests donations be made to a group of women who taught him the meaning of care for the indigent and sick on Welfare Island in NYC during his teenage years.

Missionary Servants of the most blessed trinity, sister's retirement fund, 3501 Solly Ave,  
Philadelphia, PA 19136-6296



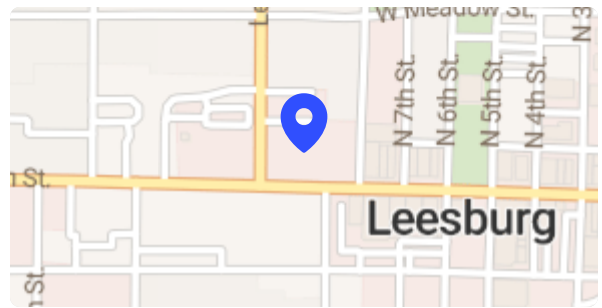
# Events

**Cornelius Anthony Kelly**

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## Visitation

- Monday**, January 27, 2025
- 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET
- Page Theus Funeral Home Chapel**  
914 W. Main Street, Leesburg FL 34748



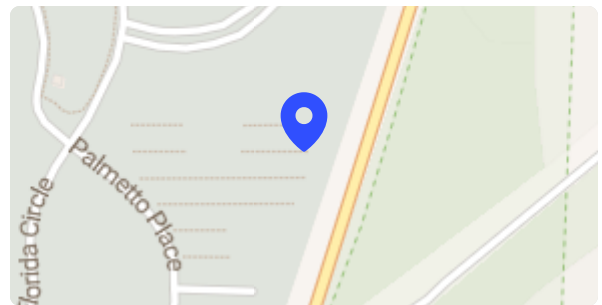
## Funeral Mass

- Tuesday**, January 28, 2025
- 8:30 AM ET
- St Paul's Catholic Church**  
1330 Sunshine Ave, Leesburg FL 34748



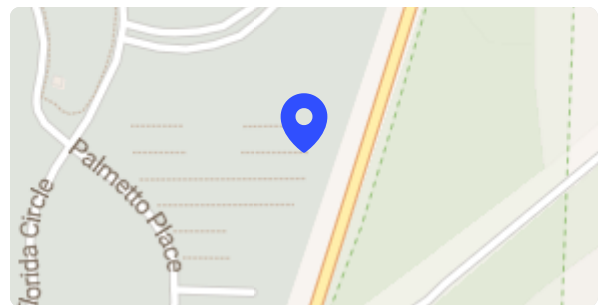
## Graveside Ceremony to follow Funeral Service

- Tuesday**, January 28, 2025
- 10:30 AM ET
- Florida National Cemetery**  
6502 SW 102nd Avenue, Bushnell FL 33513



## Cemetery Details

- Florida National Cemetery**  
6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, Bushnell FL 33513





# Tribute Wall

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**Mary Bokach** lit a candle in honor of Cornelius.

Neal was interesting man, I enjoyed our visits when ever he came to Michigan to visit family. He was always respectful and treated me like a lady. Even when he was telling jokes, he made sure they were fitting around my gender. He was a special man. Then he raised a good son.



January 23 at 2:03 PM



**Mark Ochalek** shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I feel compelled to write a line or two about this great American Catholic Gentleman. Like most parishioners, staff and clergy of St. Paul Catholic Church in Leesburg, I became a recipient of his history lessons, military protocol, sermons, humor and good-hearted ball-busting (excuse me ladies). He attended daily Mass, wearing out, I'm sure numerous, missals. If you did not see him at Mass, most likely he was driving (solo) across the country visiting family, well into his 80's. As a 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus, I am called to grow our membership. So I approached Neil one day (as I am sure many others before me have) and asked him to join the Knights; his response was classic Neil, "I wouldn't join any group that walk around with swords..". I suppose that a .45 sidearm or a carbine slung over your shoulder were Ok. ☺ But I pressed further, I guaranteed I would keep him away from those saber swingers; he finally admitted: "I won't be a part of any group that would have me as a member..." Classic. I will miss the old codger, but I know I have another angel that will pray for me. Thank you for your service and your friendship. Rest in Peace, Sir. ☐ :flag-us:



January 23 at 10:14 AM



**Pat Vernino** posted:

I knew Neil through Ministry to the sick at St Pau's for the 19 years I lived there. He was always great to be around. We often spent time discussing a variety of topics. We both had military life in common.

January 23 at 10:14 AM



# Media

**Cornelius Anthony Kelly**

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Mark Ochalek shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 23 at 11:31 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Cornelius by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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