



Milton "Mel" W. Kennedy

September 16, 1938 - July 10, 2017

Milton "Mel" W. Kennedy of Burlington, Iowa, formerly of Bourbonnais, Illinois, passed away on July 10, 2017 after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease and other medical complications. Milton was born on September 16, 1938 in Chicago, Illinois to Rufus and Lillian (Crain) Kennedy. Milton resided for the last 11 years near his daughter, Theresa, at Blair House Nursing and Rehabilitation in Burlington, Iowa.

Milton married Bartlette (Harvey) Kennedy in 1958. They later divorced in 1966. Together, they had three children: Kevin (Chong) Kennedy of Cayuga, Indiana; Richelle (John) Simpson of Wellington, New Zealand, and John (Lori) Kennedy of Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Milton married Sharon (Slapak) Kennedy on June 3, 1972. Together, they had one daughter, Theresa (Chad) Reckling of West Burlington, Iowa. Sharon preceded him in death on January 1, 2006.

Milton is a 1956 graduate of Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Illinois. He attended Kankakee Community College to obtain his certification in Computer-Aided Drafting. Milton was a long-term employee of Roper Corporation in both Bradley and Kankakee, Illinois as an Engineer/Drafter. Milton retired as a CAD Designer from ITW Deltar in Frankfort, Illinois in 2001. Prior to his medical difficulties, Milton was a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and owned and enjoyed flying his Cessna airplane. Milton was also a member of The Bradley Keyman's Club and Olivet Nazarene Church in Olivet, Illinois.

Milton was a long time local entertainer, playing guitar and singing in groups such as The Dynamic Duo and The Dynamic Duo plus One. He also made special appearances with Freddy and the Freeloaders as well as early gigs with Loretta Lynn and Dottie West. He was an avid country and western singer and played in many towns across Illinois, as well as special events, as a solo artist prior to retiring from entertainment in the late 1980's.

Milton was overjoyed to know that his beloved Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series Championship. In recent years he enjoyed weekend lunches, Dairy Queen, and car rides with his daughter Theresa and her family.

Milton is survived by his daughter, Theresa (Chad) Reckling of West Burlington, Iowa, daughter Richelle (John) Simpson of Wellington, New Zealand, his son, John (Lori) Kennedy of Bourbonnais, Illinois, his Daughter-in-Law, Chong Kennedy of Cayuga, Indiana and his sister, Sharon (Daryl) Morse of Evans, Georgia. Milton is the proud grandfather of Michelle, Pamela, Jamie, Ryan, David, Shannon, Zachary and Samuel as well as five great-grandchildren and one on the way.

Milton is preceded in death by his parents, Rufus and Lillian Kennedy, his wife, Sharon (Slapak) Kennedy, son, Kevin Kennedy, sister, Geneva (Kennedy) Cole and granddaughter, Gerri Kennedy.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2017 at 12pm until the funeral service at 2pm at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Burial will immediately follow at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kankakee. Rev. Tracey Burgus will officiate the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family wishes.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 15. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

JUL 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



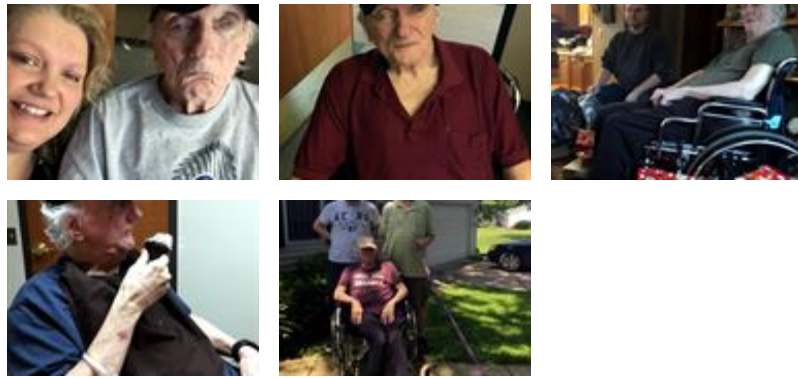
“ *Mel was such a kind soul. He was a wonderful person. As I recall, he created the “Midwest” logo in Paris, IL. We send our deepest sympathy as we are just learning of his passing.*
Terri (Walker) Bishop



Terri Walker Bishop - January 02, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ *10 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - July 14, 2017 at 12:18 PM

KA

“ I remember being a little girl listening to my daddy (Al Flint) play and hearing Mel sing. Their music played a huge part in my life and was passed on to my girls and now my grandkids. Before I lost my Dad in 2013, he had been trying to find Mel to reconnect with him. He was able to converse with Terry, which I know meant the world to him. He talked often of Mel and told awesome stories over the years, and he loved him dearly. Much love to all of you on Mel's passing. I wish I were off work on Saturday so I could come and pay tribute to Mel in person.

Kathie Flint Armstrong - July 13, 2017 at 07:26 PM

TH

The music of The Dynamic Duo (and Plus one) will be heard during the service. I'm sorry to hear about your dad's passing. Same stories of your dad were heard by us. I would loved to have seen you tomorrow. We were blessed with talented daddy's!

Theresa - July 14, 2017 at 10:45 AM

BA

“ Becky Roth/Kathie (Flint) Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Milton "Mel" W. Kennedy



Becky Roth/Kathie (Flint) Armstrong - July 13, 2017 at 06:53 PM

BA

This was supposed to be from Becky Roth and Kathie (Flint) Armstrong.

Becky Roth/Kathie (Flint) Armstrong - July 13, 2017 at 06:54 PM

BR

“ I first met Mel in 1970, when he was singing with *The Dynamic Duo*, and *The Dynamic Duo Plus One*. (I was married to Al Flint, who was part of that group.) Needless to say, I spent a LOT of evenings listening to them play and sing.

Mel and Sharon were kind, caring, loving, wonderful people, and will be missed.

Please accept my deepest sympathies on your loss.

Becky Roth

Becky Roth - July 13, 2017 at 05:19 PM

TH

Such very kind words. I was lucky with two of the best parents ever. Thank you.

Theresa - July 14, 2017 at 10:47 AM



“ 43 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - July 13, 2017 at 12:41 PM

PB

“ So sorry to learn of Milton Kennedy passing. I am pastor James Blue from old Olivet Church of the Nazarene, Georgetown Illinois where Milton was listed as a member along with his Father and Mother. I saw him at Bud Kennedy's funeral; several years ago. We played the LORD's PRAYER at his father's funeral and I believe it was a recording of Milton sing.

I certainly wish I could attend his funeral however, I have 2 weddings on Saturday so will have to miss. We will announce his passing at church Sunday. There are still a few of those who knew the Kennedy family well attending our Church. One couple Don and Ann Smith are still very faithful attending.

May the presence of Jesus our Lord and Savior surround you in this difficult time. He has promised to comfort those who mourn and grieve.

God's blessings be with you.

Pastor James Blue Olivet Church of the Nazarene, Georgetown, Illinois

Pastor James Blue - July 13, 2017 at 10:52 AM

TH

Thank you Pastor Blue for the kind words. I was blessed with wonderful grandparents and parents. When I was younger, I enjoyed attending Olivet church with my grandparents. The singing was my favorite as my grandfather had such a strong voice and Grandma played the organ. Great memories. Olivet will always be special to me.

Theresa - July 13, 2017 at 12:44 PM

SM

Thank you Pastor Blue. We appreciate you so much. Wish you could come but understand. Olivet will always be my main "home". Sharon Kennedy Morse

Sharon Morse - July 13, 2017 at 09:25 PM

GB

“ Theresa, we always enjoyed his visits to the doctors office. He always had something to share with us. Usually about his car rides, and trips to the DQ. RIP Milton. Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

Gina Tarrence(RN @ Dr. office in Burl) - July 13, 2017 at 08:48 AM

TH

He definitely loved his DQ...and he actually enjoyed trips to the doctor back in the days he could travel there with me. You all have not only been wonderful to my father, but my family in general. I cannot thank you enough for the kindness and care you gave him.

Theresa - July 13, 2017 at 12:47 PM

KG

“ Karen Grimes lit a candle in memory of Milton "Mel" W. Kennedy



karen grimes - July 12, 2017 at 07:42 PM

TH

Thank you Karen.

Theresa - July 12, 2017 at 09:00 PM

HR

“ I am so sorry, Theresa. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Holly Reilly - July 12, 2017 at 05:23 PM

TH

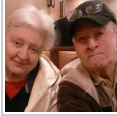
Thank you Holly. Miss you already! Lol

Theresa - July 12, 2017 at 06:40 PM

CO

I didn't know your Dad that well. We only met at your wedding. But I know how you felt about him and I know how much it hurts to love a father. So we are thinking of you and Lori and Ryan, and praying for your whole family. We can't be there for the funeral, but you are in our hearts and minds this weekend, Love Tom and Cheryl

Cheryl OHare - July 12, 2017 at 07:01 PM



So sorry to hear of Milton's passing. We were school mates in Olivet. You are in our prayers.

Raymond Kern - July 12, 2017 at 11:51 PM

TH

Thank you Mr. Kern. I'm sure I've heard some stories from the Olivet days.

Theresa - July 13, 2017 at 12:08 AM