



## Joseph P. Kelly

February 16, 1933 - February 7, 2026

Joseph P. Kelly passed away peacefully in his home Saturday, February 7, 2026, surrounded by the people who most adored and cared for him.

Born February 16, 1933, in Westchester NY, to Joseph and Ruth (Ball) Kelly, he was their only child. Joe began walking and talking at age three and attended Chevy Chase Country Day School in Maryland from 1939 to 1947. On December 2, 1947, at just 15 years old, Joe's father petitioned for his admission to Wassaic State School, where Joe became known as a friendly but shy young man. He quickly demonstrated his strong work ethic and independence and was soon assigned to various work programs on campus.

Joe became known for his humor, personality, and charm. He could be feisty and was never shy about letting everyone know exactly what he did or didn't want. He had a fondness for the ladies — often joking that he had "three to five girlfriends," depending on the day — and amused everyone by calling the men in his life "Jim.". Over time, everyone earned the affectionate experience of being "fired" by Joe at least once, often for offenses such as keeping him awake or

misplacing a watch. His humor and routine made life brighter for everyone who knew him. Joe took pride in his appearance all his life, always immaculately dressed and accessorized, and quick to let everyone know if something was missing from his outfit.

Joseph's feistiness never dulled, up until his last days he was firing orders and looking for the people he loved most. He kept his wit and charm and that is how everyone who knew him will remember him.

Friends are invited to call at the Richards Funeral Home, 29 Bross St. Cairo on Tuesday February 17 from 10:00-11:00 am with a celebration of Joe's life to take place at 11:00 am at the funeral home.

Burial will take place in New Paltz Rural Cemetery in New Paltz.

To leave condolences please visit the tribute wall above.

# Cemetery Details

## New Paltz Cemetery

81 Plains Road  
New Paltz, NY 12561

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

FEB 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Richards Funeral Home  
29 Bross Street  
Cairo, NY 12413

## Celebration of Life

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Richards Funeral Home - Cairo  
P.O. Box # 383  
29 Bross Street  
Cairo, NY 12413  
(518) 622-9503  
[info@richardsbradysfh.com](mailto:info@richardsbradysfh.com)