



## James Fred Kelley

March 17, 1940 - December 5, 2024

James Fred Kelley, age 84, of Del Rio, passed away peacefully on December 5, 2024, after a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Fred was born on March 17, 1940 in Cocke County, TN and was the youngest of ten children born to Myrtle and Andy Kelley. Fred was an avid hunter, often mentoring others along the way with his love of the sport. While he believed in the simple principles of life he became a strong influence in the small community of Del Rio, influencing so many to be at their strongest and best. He was proudly a contractor and owned his own construction business. He admired and held pride in the mountains of Tennessee and there was nothing grander than the life he built with his family. He cherished his role as a father dearly, but his favorite role to play in life was "Pappy" to his two granddaughters: Lauren and Hayley.

He is preceded in death by his parents; Myrtle and Andy Kelley; sisters, Delma Rogers (Bill), Lena Cogdill (Arlie), Leona Cogdill (Willis), Tula Moore (Dawson); brothers, Don, Tom (Bernice), Andy Jr, Elmo (Louise), Walker. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Cora Mae Kelley; son, Bryan Kelley of Jonesborough (Troy Jenkins); granddaughters, Hayley Douthat of Kingsport (Mason) and Lauren Williamson of Tallahassee, FL (Derrek); great-granddaughters, Chloe and Kenzi Williamson; special nephews, Gary Kelley and Jimmy Kelley of Del Rio; sister-in-law, Ruth Kelley; special neighbors, Jay and Mary Williams, and Mike and Deb Kopp; along with a host of other nieces, nephews, family and friends.

The family will receive friends 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Sunday, December 8, 2024 at Manes Funeral Home. The Funeral Service will follow at 7 p.m. in the Manes Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Merrill Hawkins Jr. and Rev. Vickie Moore officiating. Burial will be held 1 p.m. Monday, December 9, 2024, in Mulberry Gap Cemetery.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at [www.manesfuneralhome.com](http://www.manesfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## Mulberry Gap Cemetery

Del Rio, TN

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

DEC 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Inc.  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821  
(423) 623-6952  
manesfuneralhome@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.manesfuneralhome.com/index.cfm>

## Funeral service

DEC 8. 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Inc.  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821  
(423) 623-6952  
manesfuneralhome@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.manesfuneralhome.com/index.cfm>

## Burial

DEC 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mulberry Gap Cemetery  
1600 Blue Mill Rd  
Del Rio, TN 37727

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Sending condolences, love and prayers to Cora Mae and family and friends, so sorry to hear of Fred's passing but know he is rejoicing in Heaven now with his Savior Jesus and many loved ones. Through the years we were blessed to know Fred and Cora Mae, having met Fred when he was putting together Rose Hill Cabin in Del Rio. Fred certainly took great pride in his building of places, people and possibilities. A gentle heart and kind loving friend, he will be missed until we see him again in Heaven. So happy we were able to visit Fred and Cora Mae in November 2023, when we talked faith and reassurance in knowing Jesus. So grateful Fred protected Rosemary Potter and me when I cooked for the first time at Rose Hill Cabin and a bear came huffing up the walkway to the front porch to check us out. Fred stood at the front porch entrance to protect us and would not admit it was a bear until we talked several days later. We were honored when he told us years ago we were good people and were well liked in Del Rio. He loved his hunting dogs, too, and treasured them like family. Many stories of loved ones through the years, many stories filled with pride for family, friends, his home front, his work, hunting and Del Rio. A treasured gift to know and cherish. May the promises of Christ console Cora Mae, all his family and loved ones. Fred was/is still a treasure beyond measure.

Mike and Darlene Bodnar - December 18, 2024 at 04:16 PM

AN

“ Fred was a good one he we'll be miss sending love and prays



Angel - December 10, 2024 at 04:40 PM

GM

“ Growing up you were always there . Thankful for having you all as part of my life. Sad you have passed away from our sight. You all are in my prayers and thoughts. Love and hugs 🙏🧘🙏

Glenda Metcalf - December 08, 2024 at 05:12 PM

RL

“ really going to miss Mr Fred going to miss him greatly going to miss him showing me his animal heads and telling me how many bears he's killed killed and going to miss him telling me his all his hunting stories and how my papa jay and him sitting around figuring out or solving the worlds problems reagan lewis ❤️

Reagan lewis - December 08, 2024 at 09:15 AM

RL

“ really going to miss Mr Fred going to miss him telling me all his hunting stories and about how many bears he's killed and showing me his bear heads and all the animal heads he had

Reagan lewis - December 08, 2024 at 08:57 AM

JW

“ Fred was a great friend and neighbor to us for many years. We will miss him greatly.

Jay & Mary Williams

Jay & Mary Williams - December 07, 2024 at 05:26 PM

DG

“ Sending all my love and prayers 🙏❤️ and sending my Deepest Condolences to All of the family and friends 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️



Debra A Gann - December 07, 2024 at 01:17 PM

SU

“ We are so sorry to hear of Fred’s passing. May God comfort your heart and give you peace during this difficult time, and throughout the years. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. With deepest sympathy and much Love.

Love,  
The Messer Family,  
Joyce, Tommy, and Susan



Susan - December 07, 2024 at 11:33 AM

RJ

“ Robyn, Kaycee, Chelsee and Jessee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Fred Kelley.

Robyn, Kaycee, Chelsee and Jessee - December 07, 2024 at 11:24 AM

RJ

“ *Robyn, Kaycee, Chelsee and Jessee purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Fred Kelley.*



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**Robyn, Kaycee, Chelsee and Jessee** - December 07, 2024 at 11:24 AM

AN

“ *So sorry for your loss, Edna Stokley, Annie Norwood and Maury Reece*

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**Annie Norwood** - December 07, 2024 at 10:46 AM

TR

“ *Teddy, Kathy, Debbie, Randy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Fred Kelley.*



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**Teddy, Kathy, Debbie, Randy** - December 07, 2024 at 10:17 AM

CF

“ *Cora Mae, we're so sorry for your loss. With Deepest Sympathy. Randall and Connie Frisbee*

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**Connie Frisbee** - December 06, 2024 at 08:56 PM

NW

“ Cora Mae, Bryan, and family, we are so sorry to hear this. Fred was a good man and will be greatly missed. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers now and in the days ahead.



Nanette & Parker Wilds - December 06, 2024 at 05:47 PM

HJ

“ Harry & Lisa Jenkins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Fred Kelley.

Harry & Lisa Jenkins - December 06, 2024 at 04:02 PM

HJ

“ Harry & Lisa Jenkins purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Fred Kelley.



Harry & Lisa Jenkins - December 06, 2024 at 04:02 PM

RF

“ Red Lobster Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Fred Kelley.

Red Lobster Family - December 06, 2024 at 03:49 PM

RF

“ *Red Lobster Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Fred Kelley.*



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**Red Lobster Family** - December 06, 2024 at 03:49 PM

TR

“ *Fred our community of Del Rio will miss you dearly. And Cora we will share your loss with you. The promise of a Grand Reunion for all believers will put us together again some day. That is the great reward. A sad day today for us all but better days ahead in a better world.*

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**Tom and Linda Rosberg** - December 06, 2024 at 02:05 PM