



Carol Kelly

February 13, 1935 - November 28, 2025

Carol Jean Kelly, 90, Topeka, Kansas, a strong and independent woman who loved many and who was loved by many, passed away November 28, 2025.

Carol was born February 13, 1935, in Hays, Kansas, the daughter of Robert and Dorothy Cordell Dreher. The family moved to Topeka when she was young, where she attended St. Joseph Grade School and graduated from Capital Catholic High School (now Hayden Catholic High School) in 1953.

On August 3, 1955, Carol and John Ward Kelly were united in matrimony enjoying 60 years together prior to John's death on October 24, 2019. The couple were founding members of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church and later, as the city grew, were founding members of Christ the King Catholic Church and remained members there. Carol spent her younger years mastering her most important roles as loving wife to John and devoted mother to their four children.

Carol held positions with the Boy Scouts of America, was an executive secretary for the Board of Review with the State of Kansas and the Department of Human Resources from which she retired after 24 years of service.

Carol most enjoyed cooking, card parties, bowling, watching the Royals and

the family's many four-legged friends. After John's death, Carol moved to Arbor Court where she made many new friends and where she was happy until God called her home to be with John.

Survivors include her four children, John Kelly, Jr. (Vickie), Andrea Kelly Graham (Larry), Donna Kelly Madel (Dave) and Steve Kelly (Jeanne); nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and her sister, Shirley Kelly (Edward). Carol was also preceded in death by her parents and brother, Robert Dreher.

There will be a Visitation at 9 a.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026, in Holy Trinity Mausoleum at Mount Calvary Cemetery, followed by a Memorial Service at 10 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to SCARS (Second Chance Animal Rescue Society in Auburn KS) and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Trinity Mausoleum - Mt. Calvary Cemetery
801 SW Westchester Rd.
Topeka, KS 66606

Memorial Service

FEB 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Trinity Mausoleum - Mt. Calvary Cemetery
801 SW Westchester Rd.
Topeka, KS 66606

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carol Kelly



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - January 26 at 04:32 PM

JB

“ Janice & Mike Brooke purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Carol Kelly.



Janice & Mike Brooke - February 01 at 07:17 PM

JB

“ Janice & Mike Brooke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol Kelly.

Janice & Mike Brooke - February 01 at 07:17 PM

MB

“ I'd like to offer my condolences to the family. I worked for Carol right out of high school many years ago at the Employment Security Board of Review. She was a very kind lady. Fun fact she actually went to school at Hayden with my dad. Enjoyed the years I knew both her and your dad.



Monica (Perez) Broxterman - January 26 at 01:55 PM