



Thomas E. Kelly

December 1, 1920 - March 24, 2011

Thomas E. Kelly, 90, passed away Thursday, March 24, 2011 at a nursing home following complications of surgery. He was born December 1, 1920 in Topeka the son of George and Mary (Ledford) Kelly. Tom had a long career in the Army Air Corps, beginning with flight training in 1942. He was a pilot and participated in training students for D Day. After the war ended in 1945, he returned to Washburn Law School, graduating in 1948 to begin a career in the FBI. He entered the FBI and was assigned to the Philadelphia, Newark and Kansas City divisions under J. Edgar Hoover. After 28 years of dedicated service, he retired from the FBI in 1976. He then served as the executive director for the Governor's Committee on Criminal Administration until he was appointed Director of the KBI by Kansas Attorney General Bob Stephan. Director Kelly administered many positive changes within the KBI, one of which was relocating KBI headquarters to the former Crane Junior High School building in Topeka. He was a member of several Bar associations and law enforcement groups, along with the Kansas Peace Officers Association. In June of 1987 after 37 years in law enforcement and nearly nine years as Director of the KBI, Tom retired. Tom is survived by his wife, Dorothy of 67 years; daughter, Janie Kelly Coates; grandson, Thomas B. Coates; brother, Bob Kelly; sister, Katherine (Frank) Galbraith and many nieces and nephews. Funeral service will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at First Presbyterian Church, 817 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS. Burial with military honors will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Helping

Hands Humane Society, Washburn Law School, Highland Park Alumni Assoc.
sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd.,
Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas E. Kelly*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Janie and family-*

I am so sorry about your Dad. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers! May the wonderful memories of special family adventures bring you peace in the weeks and months to come.

God's blessings,

Linda

Linda Anderson - March 29, 2011 at 08:08 PM



“ *Dorothy, We are sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you. If we can do anything, please let us know.*

Pat & Rhonda Newberry - March 29, 2011 at 06:07 PM



“ *Director Kelly, thank you for your service to our nation and our state. We are grateful for both.*

Bill Halvorsen - March 27, 2011 at 06:08 PM