



Jerome "Jerry" Felix Kelich

July 8, 1935 - November 5, 2025

Jerome "Jerry" Felix Kelich, 90 years old, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. He was born on July 8, 1935, in Elwood, Indiana. He was the eighth of nine children to parents, John and Rose (Manghelli) Kelich. He was a farmer of deep faith who loved his family, homestead, and country. Jerry attended St. Joseph Catholic School in Elwood and was a 1953 graduate of Elwood High School. He later served in the U.S. Army from 1958-1960. He loved the United States very much. He would nearly shove his family down to run through a barn or his house to get outside to see fighter jets flying over the farm on flights for practice maneuvers! His patriotism raised the hair on his arms and brought tears to his eyes.

After the Army, a dissolved marriage to Mary Lou (Cotton) brought his first daughter, Bonita (Kelich) Porter (Alex), who was raised in Michigan. He later married Ruby Ilene (Graham), and they shared three daughters during their 28-year marriage until her death – Angela Kelich, Brenda Kelich, and Tamara Kelich (Josh Crow). They gave their girls a faith base and taught them a strong work ethic on the farm.

Jerry was a man of deep faith and his girls were his heart. Other farmers used to tell him that he'd work a long hard life on his farm with no boys, and he always put those men in their places by telling them, "I'll stack these girls up against any boy in this neighborhood, and they'll outwork them any day!" Jerry

said that he had lived a good, long life, and that he was very blessed. He didn't know when the Good Lord would take him home, but he was ready.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and all eight of his siblings (in order of their deaths) - Deloris, Rosemary, James, Frank, John, Mary Magdalene, Anthony, and Joseph. He is survived by his four daughters, six granddaughters, a great-grandson, and a great-granddaughter - Mattice Kelich and son Kove, Diamond Graham, Maleah Grines, Sierra (Craw) Schmitt (Tyler) and daughter Melody, Jordyn Porter, and Julia (Porter) Hilbert (Ryan), as well as many nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Dear Angie, Brenda, and Tammy, hold onto the Love not the loss. Remember how Blessed he and you were to spend time together as a Family. He is so proud of you three girls and so grateful for your care.

My mom, Tootie and Uncle Jerry spoke weekly and when mom went to be with the Lord I called Uncle Jerry weekly. Boy did we talk about Veterans, state of the union, childhood life of the Kelich family, religion and the Purdue Boilermakers. The last 6 months I have missed our talks. Getting to see him in July at the reunion was special. Thank you girls for bringing him.

Hugging him in October and asking him to carry love to all the Family was a blessing.

His compassion for people was clear he helped all. He is a man of Faith and not afraid to speak God's word. He loved his family and whatever challenges they were faced with he supported them. Be Proud he was your Dad.

Look for the signs because he will be with you daily. He will guide you just listen.

What I will miss most is hearing him share How Proud he was to be an American. He always thanked the Veterans.

May God Bless your Family.

Love,

Barbara, Craig and Family

barbara stiegemeier - November 11, 2025 at 03:39 PM

FD

“ ———

I'm so saddened to hear about the passing of Mr. Jerome "Jerry" Felix Kelich. I met him at Anderson High School, and he was one of the kindest people I've ever met. He always took the time to speak, smile, and make me feel appreciated. His gentle spirit and caring heart truly touched me. Rest peacefully, Mr. Kelich — your kindness will never be forgotten. 🕊️💙🙏

Francis Davis - November 11, 2025 at 05:50 AM

CB

“ *Angie, Brenda and Tam I have so many fond memories growing up with you girls and being at the farm. Your Mom and Dad both being at all of our sporting events Sitting with my mom And dad, and our dads letting us know when we needed to work harder and letting the refs know when they made a bad call..*

I remember bringing the kids to the farm so they could play with the piglets and your dad being great with them on how to hold them and explain things to them.

I remember he was upset that Angie got snowed in with me during the blizzard of '78 for 2 weeks plus and I was sorry that Brenda and Tam had to do your chores.

Jerry was always so nice to me whenever I saw him either in public or when I was at your house, he always treated me with kindness. I know you will miss him dearly but I also know you are glad he is at peace and pain free.

Love you 3 ladies dearly and I pray you find comfort in each other and all your memories. ❤️

Christy Brown - November 11, 2025 at 12:39 AM

BA

So sorry to hear of your loss Angie. I know how close you were to Your Dad and will miss him so much. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Bev

Beverly Arms - November 11, 2025 at 10:38 AM

JM

“ *Dear Angie,*

I am so sorry to learn about the passing of your sweet Dad. While reading his obituary, it brought tears as I thought about the loss of my own Dad last year.

Our Dads were similar having lived to their 90s, worked hard on their farms, served our country in the Army and outlived their siblings from a large family.

There is no better bond than one between a for and her Dad.

I pray that your memories grow stronger as you recall your love for one another and know that he is resting well.

Jennifer McNair

Jennifer McNair - November 10, 2025 at 10:42 PM

JM

**daughter and her Dad*

Jennifer McNair - November 10, 2025 at 10:44 PM

BB

“ *Angie, thinking of you and your family and wishing you moments of peace and comfort during this difficult time. Your father, Jerome, will be you in your heart and memories. -- Barb Bates*



Barb Bates - November 10, 2025 at 09:43 PM

LP

Angie-What a wonderful life lived by your dad and clearly he was so proud of his girls. Prayers for you and your family. Liz Perry

liz perry - November 10, 2025 at 09:48 PM

KK

*“ We always enjoyed visiting with Uncle Jerry. He was an entertainer and loved to make you laugh. He was a true patriot of America and was damn proud of his service to our country - very proud. He loved his girls and was proud of their work ethic and shared passion for their family farm. Deepest sympathies to Angela, Brenda & Tammy and your families. We will be keeping you close in our thoughts, hearts & prayers
Kevin & Cathy Kelich*

Kevin & Cathy Kelich - November 10, 2025 at 09:25 PM

CC

“ We are so sorry for your loss of your sweet dad. Sending you girls our deepest condolences and warm hugs during this heartbreaking time. We have always loved hearing stories about you growing up on the farm! Your dad was so very proud of each of you! We love you all!! Chris and Julie Chelli❤️

Chris and Julie Chelli - November 10, 2025 at 09:05 PM

SD

Angie and family J. And I are thinking of each and everyone of you. Your dad certainly raised strong women that do you know and understand work ethics. Angie, you show that in everything you do and I know he is very proud of you. We are sorry for your loss and happy for the love that you have for your father.

Shari Doane - November 11, 2025 at 09:50 AM

CB

“ Angie, your Dad sounds like such a good man. I did not get to meet him.... but I appreciated getting to share a bit of his life by reading his obituary. While I did not get to know him, I did get to know you. It sounds like you are a reflection of your Dad. You are a person that others like to get to know. You are a person of strong conviction, you are a strong supporter of others, you are physically strong to have gone through all that you have... with a positive attitude. I know that you have been there for your Dad (like he was for you) and like you have been for others. You are a blessing to so many, including me. Thank you for your friendship and support. Please know that you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Sending hugs.



Carol Blankman - November 10, 2025 at 09:01 PM