



## Donald "String" Vernon Kelly

June 2, 1958 - July 11, 2015

Donald "String" Vernon Kelly, age 57, passed away unexpectedly and peacefully at home with his wife by his side. He suffered a major heart attack and passed quickly. Don was employed as a Chief Engineer for Dann Marine Towing out of Chesapeake City, Maryland. String was born in 1958 to Donald James Kelly and Vernus Ann (Wonnacott) Kelly. String was raised in the Sault, a place he told his wife he would never leave. String enjoyed the changing seasons. His favorite things to do included spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren Jeremy and Keaton Freeman; Kamryn Kinney; and Izabella Goforth. String never had children of his own, but he loved the children of his wife Patti as if they were his own. Don will be sorely missed by his wonderful mother Vernus Ann Kelly. He leaves behind his loving wife Patti Kelly. Siblings of Don are Michael (Doris) Kelly, Christine (John) Newton of Brewster NY, Candace (Alan) Pike; and Cathy (James) DePlonty of Ludington. He is survived by 'children' Bridget (Shane) Akre and Arlon (Erica) Goforth from Ankeny Iowa. He has many special nieces and nephews including Kim and Jonathan Kelly; Kelly and John Newton; Joseph Ferraro and Janelle Pike; and Kaitlyn, Jenna, and Madison DePlonty. Several great nephews and nieces will miss Don as well. String's most-recent accomplishment was co-planning the Sault's First Slash Ashmun event held last week in the Soo, an event that drew several hundred cars and even more participants. Don (with the help of singer/songwriter David Kellan) wrote the lyrics and David wrote the music for the event. The Soo Brewery was his special 'home away from

home'. String was also an active member of the Elks #552 (Elk of the Year in 2014). He constantly played with his three best buds (dogs) Jack, Harley and Hemi. He had finally been able to buy his first Harley Davidson, a dream come true. He loved to watch NASCAR and Red Wings games. String was always a gentle man; ready with a kind word, and always had a new joke to share! He is a legend among trivia teams from around town. If you want to make any kind of donation in his name, please donate to an organization that helps in maintaining life and dignity of animals. A dog park within city limits was always his dream. String's Celebration of Life will take place on Wednesday, July 15, at the Elks in the Soo at 1111 E. Portage, beginning at 6pm. Please bring your memories.

# Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Did not know "String" very well. As a young adult he was VERY easy to like. (An old friend of Michael's) Deepest sympathy to all his family and friends. Sincerely, Dick and Barb Jacobson

---

**Dick/Barb Jacobson** - July 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ I'm sorry to hear about Strings passing, my thoughts and prayers are with you. He was a great man, we were lucky to have him in our lives. God bless. Rest in peace string!!

---

**Rob Caliguri** - July 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Patti and family, String will always be remembered by those of us who knew him as one of the funniest, most likable people to be around. He was the type of guy that everyone should have had the chance to meet at least once in their lives. He was a good man and a good friend. May he Rest in Peace.

---

**Tim Hall** - July 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Patti & Family, So Sad to hear about String. We will keep you all in our Prayers & Thoughts. He will be dearly missed.

---

**Kathy (Camp) & WayneFahler** - July 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ So sad about this, such a great loss to everyone who knew him. I hope his passing was easy,

---

**Cathy Buck Melin** - July 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Patti & family - I am at a loss for words. However - I am so proud of the ability to say I co-organized the Slashing Ashmun with String. I can't imagine ever having as much fun organizing anything as I did with him. He was like a kid at Christmas with every new idea - or when the numbers of participates kept growing. I really felt I had to grab ahold of his feet to bring him back down to earth. He was so excited about that. I promise that this event will have his mark in it every year!

*I send my love, my thoughts, and my prayers and my deepest heart felt sympathies - I will miss him so much!*

---

**Jeannie OConnor** - July 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM