



# Mary "Kelly" Kellen

SEP 11, 2024



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 7



## Mary "Kelly" Kellen

SEP 11, 2024

**M**ary A. (Kelly) Kellen passed away in Tucson, AZ on September 11, 2024 at the age of 77.

Kelly is survived by a brother, her best friend, Mary, Mary's extended family, and several nieces/nephews, and grand-nieces/nephews. She is predeceased by her father; mother; two sisters and a nephew.

Kelly was born and lived on Long Island, NY, until she moved with her family to Arizona. She was graduated from Hewlett School, Long Island, New York.

She settled in Tucson where she lived most of her life. She attended the University of Arizona Tucson and was graduated with a Political Science degree.

Mary A. (Kelly) Kellen, CPC, CEDC, was a Certified Professional Coder since June of 2013 and Emeritus status since 2017.

Kelly was a Clinical Practice Administrator at the College of Medicine in Tucson prior to her retirement. She was instrumental in helping to grow the Department of Emergency Medicine (EM) in 1980 seeing 18,000 patients a year to over 40,000 patients in 1993-4. With Kelly's help, EM became the highest revenue producer in all of Surgery.

Kelly loved life and embraced it with both arms and legs. Anyone fortunate enough to be around and/or know her was instantly mesmerized by her intelligence, humor, good nature and love. She will be missed, but her memory will continue to brighten our days until we meet her again.

Godspeed Kelly, we love you.



## Obituary

**Mary "Kelly" Kellen**

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PLEASE NOTE THAT EVERGREEN MORTUARY IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL SITE FOR COMMENT OR TRIBUTES FOR MARY ANN "KELLY" KELLEN. ANY OTHER SITE IS A SCAM.

**SCAM ALERT-** A website called ECHOVITA and other third-party websites incorrectly rewrite obituaries that are posted on funeral home websites and then urge people to make a donation. The family does NOT benefit from this, so please DO NOT donate money unless you are legitimately on a funeral home website.



## Tribute Wall

## Mary "Kelly" Kellen

MB

**Mary Bernal** posted:

Emergency Medicine Folks, Much of the success of Emergency Medicine (EM) at the University of Arizona (UA) can be attributed to Kelly Kellen. On September 1, 1980, the academic presence of Emergency Medicine was initiated with the creation of the Section of EM, within the Department of Surgery. As the inaugural Section Chief, I took over a small, 15 bed emergency department (ED) that saw about 18,000 patients per year within the recently opened 200 bed University Hospital that was the teaching hospital for a fairly new medical school, the first College of Medicine in the State of Arizona. Kelly Kellen began her employment in the early 80's as a front desk clerk in that ED. Around 1983-4, University Hospital transitioned away from a state-owned facility with the creation of University Medical Center Corporation (UMCC) and the physician staff became part of University Physicians Inc, (UPI). Once this separation occurred, we (the physicians and associated staff) became responsible for our own patient care billings and collections. In 1986, I hired Kelly Kellen to become a member of the Section of EM within Surgery to be a part of the billing/collection enterprise. In 1993-4, we built a new ED, about 4 times the size of the first ED, as our patient volume soon exceeded 40,000 visits/year. (We are currently in our 3rd ED). We also realized that the process for billing/collections for EM was significantly different from the rest of Surgery. Thus, the Section of EM created a billing/collections division separate from the rest of Surgery. This effort was led by Kelly Kellen. Her success was nothing short of phenomenal. EM became the highest revenue producer in all of Surgery. In the late 90's, it became evident to me and our faculty that EM should become a separate free standing clinical department. It took me a few years to convince the Dean and Surgery Chair that moving out of Surgery was the right thing to do. By then, we were financially, clinically, educationally and research wise very successful. After a tough struggle, the Department of Emergency Medicine was formed in 2000. Kelly Kellen became the financial manager for the Department of Emergency Medicine. Over the next decade, Kelly continued to work her magic. She was joined by Peggy Hatmaker (deceased), Chris West, Lisa Hayden and others. EM became the highest grossing department in the entire College of Medicine and University Physicians. Because of Kelly we had resources to create an endowed chair, purchase and refurbish research laboratories, and we built a significant reserve. We funded our expanding educational programs, enhanced faculty compensation and invested in the future of EM at UA. EM was a shining star with our College of Medicine and nationally. In the last few years prior to her retirement, Kelly worked with me within our contract with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). It is with pride and privilege that I had Kelly Kellen as a colleague and friend for over 35 years.. At her death she was surrounded by her family and friends. She was loved. Thank you, Kelly. Harvey W. Meislin, MD FACEP, FAAEM Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine University of Arizona Health Science Center

October 24 at 12:23 PM

KT

**Karen Trepes** posted:

I will always cherish the times in my childhood when MaryAnn and Nana would come to visit. Those were magical times. Hope you are with your Mother and at peace. Love and light, Karen

September 29 at 6:32 AM



## Tribute Wall

Mary "Kelly" Kellen



Mary shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



MY DEAREST FABULOUS BEST FRIEND, I AM BROKEN HEARTED AND WILL MISS YOU ALWAYS! 🥰 THERE WERE SO MANY GREAT TIMES AND LAUGHTER WITH FAMILY. I KNOW YOU LOVED YOUR JOB AND ALL THE PEOPLE YOU WORKED WITH. I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO ENJOY SO MUCH LIFE AND TRAVELS WITH YOU! EVERY TRIP WAS CHARMED AND GREAT FUN! EVEN WHEN THINGS SEEMED TO GO WRONG IT WOULD TURN OUT THERE WAS ALWAYS A SILVER LINING. WE VISITED INNUMERABLE CITIES, SOME MANY TIMES. THE BROADWAY SHOWS, CONCERTS, BEST RESTAURANTS, MUSEUMS, ART GALLERIES, HISTORICAL SITES, WINERIES, ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY AND SOME ABROAD. IT WAS PURE PLEASURE! GOD LOVE AND BLESS YOU, KELLY! NOW YOUR JOURNEY WILL BE TO CELEBRATE 🥰 WITH EVERYONE YOU HAVE MISSED THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE YOU! LOVE, MARY

September 19 at 7:29 AM



## Media

Mary "Kelly" Kellen



Mary shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 19 at 7:29 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Mary "Kelly" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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