



## Robert Lester Kellen

July 4, 1942 - March 9, 2018

Robert “Buck” Kellen, 75, of Sublette, IL passed away on the morning of Friday, March 9, 2018 at OSF St. Paul Medical Center in Mendota, IL. Buck was born July 4, 1942, the son of Gilbert “Gib” and Velma (Dinges) Kellen. Buck married his wife Sharon on September 21, 1985. Throughout his life, Buck was an active member of the Sublette community—he touched countless lives through his years of service. First, Buck served as Chief on the Sublette Fire Department from 1971 to 1999, 28 years of his 38-year career with the department. During his years of service, Buck helped modernize Sublette’s fire department—from converting an old milk truck into a water-hauling tanker in his early days to purchasing a modernized state-of-the-art fire engine, capable of pumping over 1,200 gallons per minute in his last year as Chief, Buck’s main concern was serving the community. Buck’s legacy in the fire service continues today through his nephews Kyle and Kole Kellen, niece Janelle Stenzel (Kellen), step-daughter-in-law Mary Ehlers (Joerger), and step-grandsons Brock and Dylan Ehlers, all whom are current active members on Sublette’s fire department, contributing a combined total of 74 years of service and counting. To date, members of the Kellen family have contributed nearly 300 years of service on Sublette Fire Department. He was a graduate of the Amboy High School Class of 1960. Buck was an avid sportsman. For decades, he was member of Shady Oaks Country Club of Sublette, IL. Buck also enjoyed hunting and fishing with his brothers, nephews and grandchildren. Buck was the member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Church in Sublette, IL, the Mendota's Elks Club and even served as Road Commissioner for Sublette Township. Buck was also a member of the agricultural community working for Sublette Farmer's Elevator, Cropmate and F.S. Buck was preceded in death by his father Gilbert "Gib", his mother Velma, and brothers John and William "Bill" all of Sublette, IL. Buck is survived by his wife Sharon, two step-sons, Brent and Brad (Mary) Ehlers, three step-grandchildren Brock, Caitlin and Dylan Ehlers of Sublette, IL, his brother Kevin (Kathy) Kellen of Rhinelander, WI, and his sister Karen (Dina) Kellen of Denver, CO. and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to Sublette Fire Department and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 12, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette, IL. The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church with a visitation beginning one-hour prior. Burial will follow at Restland Cemetery in Mendota, IL. Pallbearers will be Kyle and Kole Kellen, Brock, Caitlin and Dylan Ehlers, and Jim Boyle. Honorary pallbearers are Neal Vaessen, Gene Leffelman, Dennis Klein and Robert Jones.

# Cemetery Details

## Restland Cemetery

1208 22nd St  
Mendota, IL 61342

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church  
201 S Locust St  
Sublette, IL 61367

## Service

MAR 13. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church  
201 S Locust St  
Sublette, IL 61367

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Lester Kellen*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Robert Lester Kellen*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *With deepest sympathy for the Kellen family. I was a Miss Flame back in the day....1978. I had a blast that summer riding on the firetruck in all the parades. Buck always made it fun for me. Great memories indeed. His sense of humor (always teasing) and kindness I will always remember.*

*Kim Miller Didier*

**Kimberly Didier** - March 15, 2018 at 01:15 PM



“ *Deepest sympathies, Buck was a joy to work with at Cropmate, I will always remember his smile and kindness.*

*Carol Fisher*

**Carol Fisher** - March 12, 2018 at 10:25 AM



“ *With sympathy to Sharon and the family.*

*Sharon U Thompson*

**Sharon U Thompson** - March 11, 2018 at 02:48 PM

DJ

“ *Our deepest sympathy to all the Kellen family. Buck always had a smile on his face and always knew you when he saw you. He will forever be remembered.*

*Dennis and Janet Jones*

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**Dennis and Janet Jones** - March 11, 2018 at 10:30 AM