



Kelly Robert Bales

July 10, 1976 - February 9, 2010

A LINK TO THE VIDEO IS UNDER THE PHOTO. THANK YOU

Kelly Robert Bales, age 33, of Mattoon, IL, passed away at 12:54 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Care Center. Visitation will be held Friday evening, February 12, 2010, from 3:00-7:00 p.m., at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL, 61938. A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. Kelly was born in Mattoon, IL on July 10, 1976, the son of Bob L. and Pam S. (Ring) Bales. Both parents survive in Okeechobee, FL. He married Carrie L. Montgomery on November 17, 2007 in Mattoon, IL. She survives along with their two month old son, Owen Riley Bales. Other survivors include one brother, Korey L. Bales and wife Jennifer of Norfolk, VA; niece and nephew, Robert Sean Bales and JoAnna Marie Bales; uncles and aunts, Rex and Bobby Hilligoss of Mattoon, IL, and Jerry and B.J. Porter of Dickson, TN; and cousins, Jeff and Beth Hilligoss and their daughter Izzy of Mattoon, IL, and Andy Hilligoss of Mattoon, IL; mother and father in-law, Alan and Judy Montgomery of Mattoon, IL; one brother in law, Scott A. Montgomery and wife Jessie L. of Gays, IL; and maternal grandparents in-law, Laurence and Phyllis Montgomery of Mattoon, IL, and Barbara Specht of Neoga, IL. He also leaves extended family, Tom and Linda Niemeyer, and Curt and Linze Niemeyer, all of Humboldt, IL, and the entire Niemeyer Kubota staff. He was preceded in death by grandparents, Lloyd and Jo Ring, and his cat and loyal companion, Bagara. Kelly was a 1995 graduate of Mattoon High School

and in 1997 received an Associate's Degree in Diesel Ag Power from Lake Land College. He had been a part of the Mattoon High School wrestling team and was a former member of Steve Sell's Boy Scout Troop. He attended the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Mattoon, IL, and was employed as a technician by Niemeyer Kubota in Humboldt, IL. He was Past President and a current member of the Tri-County R/C Flying Club. Quite the adventurer, Kelly enjoyed power parachuting, four-wheeling, and motorcycles. He was also very fond of the outdoors and liked camping, fishing, boating and outdoor sports. Kelly loved children, was a loyal friend and never met a stranger. He was a jokester and had an infectious smile that lit up the room. He loved his wife and family, and treasured his friends, but his life's greatest joy was the birth of his son.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in his honor may be made to his son, Owen Riley Bales at the Bales Memorial Fund with First Mid-Illinois Bank. Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com to view the video tribute, light a virtual candle in his honor, or share a memory with his family.

Tribute Wall



“ Kelly Robert Bales

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Kelly in high school. He was always a sweet and friendly guy. He was always smiling. I wish I had kept in touch in the intervening years. I hope you can take solace in the wonderful memories you have with him.
Sincerely,
Beckie

Beckie (Bender) Stroud - February 16, 2010 at 02:21 AM



“ Carrie, Owen & the Alan & Judy Montgomery family,
We share in your sorrow & grief for the loss of Kelly. You are in our thoughts & prayers. May you find comfort in the coming days. God bless & keep you.

Stan & Jenny Hagerstrom - February 15, 2010 at 02:03 AM



“ Kelly was a wonderful person and a staple in my childhood memories. He was completely charming and his smile will always be part of my memories. My family's prayers are with you.

Traci Castle Becker - February 14, 2010 at 06:36 PM

MS

“ Carrie and family, I was saddened when I heard of Kelly's passing. What a tragic story. I am so very sorry for your loss and pray that you are able to find comfort in the memories that the two of you shared. I used to be your neighbor and I remember Kelly always had a smile on his face, and a love in his heart for you Carrie. I wish you peace at this difficult time. God bless you and Owen!

Mia Svoboda - February 13, 2010 at 06:33 AM

GB

“ To the Bales family, Our thoughts are with you and all of your family. May the memories of Kelly and now the joys of his son help you through these difficult times. You have our sincere sympathy.

Geo, Mary & Tyler Beason - February 13, 2010 at 04:19 AM

JN

“ Pam, Bob, Korey, Carrie and Owen. I am so sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I have great memories growing up with Kelly playing in the neighborhood on South Lawn with all the neighborhood kids. He will be missed!

Jimmie (Hall) Nichols - February 12, 2010 at 11:18 PM

KK

“ I was grieved to hear of Kelly's death. I have memories dating back to first grade of Kelly that make me smile just thinking of them. He was such a wonderful person, always thinking of others and always with a smile. My heart goes out to his family at this painful time. I am praying for all of you to find the strength to get through one day at a time.

Kyla Sampson Kuhns - February 12, 2010 at 08:46 PM

IN

“ Pam, Bob, Carrie, Owen,\n\nI am sorry for your tragic loss. Kelly was a great guy. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Inga Norviel - February 12, 2010 at 08:32 PM

MI

“ So sorry for your loss Carrie...my prayers are with you and your son.

Micah - February 12, 2010 at 08:06 PM

EH

“ We are so sorry for your loss! Kelly was so good to my Dad at the mower shop and to us when we visited with your family. You are all in our prayers! With Love.

Emma and Marty Hackler - February 12, 2010 at 06:44 PM

DK

“ Words cannot adequately express our sorrow upon hearing of your loss. Prayers and concerns. Dale and Gretta (Gatewood) Kearney\n\n

Dale & Gretta (Gatewood) Kearney - February 12, 2010 at 06:13 PM

BW

“ To the Bales family,\n\nWe are so sorry for your loss, Kelly was one of the nicest people we have ever met.He has been our neighbor for the last ten plus years we will miss seeing him everyday, watching him fly his airplanes, ect. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of his family.He will be sadly missed.

Ben and Debbie Williams - February 12, 2010 at 05:05 PM

JD

“ I admired Kelly for his ability to talk to anyone, anytime, about anything. He was so personable, a wonderful friend and fun to be around. We will miss him and remember his big smile, his even bigger heart and all of the great times we shared with him. \r\n\r\nIn loving memory,\r\n\r\nJulie\r\n\r\n

Julie & Chris Darling - February 12, 2010 at 03:46 PM

DW

“ Our prayers are with you, Carrie, and all of your family.

Denise (Fedrigan) Webster - February 12, 2010 at 03:05 PM

BL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep you and Owen in my thoughts.

Brooke (Reynolds) Lister - February 12, 2010 at 02:57 PM

SP

“ Kelly was a wonderful person, he always had a smile on his face and something nice to say. I am so sorry for your loss and you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Susan (Drake) Pritchett - February 12, 2010 at 02:47 PM

MB

“ Bob, Pam, Korey and Carrie, \r\n\r\nYesterday I learned of the unfortunate and untimely death of your son and my friend Kelly. There are no words to describe the utter grief that I am feeling right now, and I cannot possibly imagine the shock and sorrow that has been thrust on your family as well. \r\n\r\nI will always remember fondly the experiences he and I had together. It is true that he was taken from us too soon, and I think you share my sentiment that it feels a little unfair that such a smart and talented young man's life has ended with so much living left to do. It is my firm belief that bad things that happen to good people serve a greater good, and Kelly's death will, I believe, teach us all something if we only let ourselves be taught. Right now, we all are trudging through the mourning process, but with support from friends and family, I think we can find ourselves whole again. \r\n\r\nI am so depressed to hear that one of my best friends died suddenly. It is a loss for the community as well as his family. I cannot say in words what he has done for those who came to know him. He is gone but he will always be an example for us to live up to. \r\n\r\nI offer my sincere condolence and deepest sympathy on your loss. May the outpouring of sympathy, the kind acts of friends and strangers and the comfort in knowing that your loss is felt by many, help you through this difficult time. I ask for God's blessings on you and your wonderful family. May you find the courage and strength to move forward in peace and confidence and in knowing that his was a life well-lived.\r\n\r\nDuring this difficult time for your family, I would like to extend a helping hand if you will have it. I think of you two as a second family for me, so please don't hesitate to call me for any reason. Please accept my sincerest condolences and know that I am here with you through it all if you need me. \r\n\r\nLove, \r\n\r\nMatthew and Pamela\r\n

Matthew and Pamela Beeler - February 12, 2010 at 11:27 AM

KB

“ Bob and Pam, so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember the days when all three of you would come into the bank Kelly always had a smile on his face. I know this is a difficult time for you but always remember the good times you had with Kelly and Owen will help ease some of the pain. God bless you all.

Kathy Brown - February 12, 2010 at 04:29 AM

SS

“ Mr and Mrs Bales, Carrie and Owen, and family, I was so shocked and so sorry to hear on the local news about Kelly's accident. I believe he was one of my science students at MJHS. If he wasn't in my class I know I saw him in the halls. His face is so familiar. What a tragedy and loss for your family. He was so young, and had such a life ahead of him with his wife and new little son. Please know that I will keep your family in my prayers at this sad, sad time and pray for comfort in your grief. With heartfelt sympathy,
Sharon Skaggs

Sharon Skaggs - February 12, 2010 at 04:09 AM

JB

“ We are sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Bridges - February 12, 2010 at 03:20 AM

SF

“ Dear Bales Family, I was so sad to hear about Kelly's passing. I have nothing but the best of memories of Kelly. I wouldn't be the person I am today without having had him touch my life. The majority of my senior year memories include Kelly - senior prom, homecoming, graduation - such fond memories that I'll treasure forever. His winning smile and never-knew-a-stranger attitude will be sorely missed by everyone. I'll be praying for all of you.

Sandy (Lawson) Fowler - February 12, 2010 at 02:56 AM

SC

“ *Pleae know you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. When you lose someone you love, you long for one more day, one more word, one more touch, another hug and one more beautiful smile. We may not understand why Kelly left this earth so soon, or why he left before we were ready to say good-bye, but always remember that he lived and enjoyed his life to the fullest and it was evident that he dearly loved his wife, son, family and friends.* \r\n

Sonny & Raemona Carter - February 12, 2010 at 02:40 AM

SB

“ *Pam, Bob, Carrie & Family,\r\n\r\nWe are very sorry for your loss. You all will be kept in our prayers. We hope and pray that you find peace and comfort from the memories of Kelly that you hold close to your heart. We love you. Please let us know if there is anything we can help with.*

Seth & Sara Beeler - February 11, 2010 at 10:40 PM

JW

“ *We are so so very sorry! This is such an awful thing to try to justify and understand but just remember God has a plan and Kelly will always be watching over you and Owen! We will miss him deeply but he will forever be in our hearts.*

Joe & Kendra Warren - February 11, 2010 at 10:27 PM

NI

“ *i am so sorry about the loss of kelly...he was such a great guy. and the article is so right he is awesome with children...and always had a smile on his face....he will be missed by so many....*

nicole - February 11, 2010 at 10:07 PM