



## Honorable Marc Reed Kellams

May 4, 1949 - July 29, 2022


Marc Reed Kellams, 73, died Friday, July 29, 2022, in a car accident outside of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Born May 4, 1949 in Bloomington, Marc was a lifelong resident prior to moving to Bargersville in 2020 to be close to family. He is a United States Navy Veteran and graduated from Indiana University with a religious studies degree. At age 31, Marc was appointed to Circuit Court Judge in Monroe County and retired in 2018 after 38 years on the bench. This year would have been his 43rd year teaching the trial and advocacy class at the Indiana University Maurer Law School. Marc became an ordained Deacon in June 2008 through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He worked for 12 years as a Deacon at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington followed by Ss. Francis and Clare of Assisi in Greenwood, IN. After retirement from the bench, he took on the role of Coordinator of Prison Ministries for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. In 2013 Marc was appointed to the board of JLAP, Judges, Lawyers, Assistance Program through the Indiana State Bar Association and Indiana Supreme Court, which serves as an organization that volunteers to help judges, attorneys and law students struggling with mental health problems, addiction, and depression. In addition to these roles, he also spent time working as a Senior Judge, filling in for other judges when needed. Marc was proud to serve as a Board Chair on the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology Board of Overseers. He is past President of the Indiana Judges Association and has long served on the Judicial Ethics Committee of

the Indiana Judicial Conference. Marc led a review of the American Bar Association's Code of Judicial Conduct and has chaired the Boards of the Monroe County Youth Services Bureau, the Monroe County American Red Cross, the Monroe County Community Corrections Advisory Council, Bloomington Rotary Club and its foundation, Bloomington Hospital Foundation's Development Council, Bloomington Hospital's Advisory Council and Bloomington Hospital's Board of Directors as well as The Surgery Center.

Marc loved life and those around him. He was an influential person in so many people's lives, mixing faith and law throughout his career as a Judge and Deacon. He was the rock to his family, a wonderful husband, father, papaw (to eight grandchildren), mentor and friend. He was loved and respected by so many. A man known for his gigantic bear hugs, gentle spirit, work ethic, and devotion to his faith. He dedicated himself to the community, visiting and comforting the elderly, helping the sick and dying as well as performing countless baptisms and marriage ceremonies. He will be missed terribly. As a strong man of faith, we know he is looking down on all of us telling everyone it's not goodbye but rather it's until we meet again.

Marc is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Christina (Fox) Kellams, daughter Sarah (Kellams) Lippman and son-in-law Adam Lippman, their sons Mason Rhys Lippman and Maxwell Hudson Lippman, of Montclair, NJ, daughter Katherine (Kellams) Reed, son-in-law Ryan Reed, and their six children: Bradford Reed Dollens, Christian Theodore Dollens, Schuyler (Sky) Grant Dollens, Mattilyn Grace Reed, Alliyson Renae Reed, William Blake Reed, of Bloomington, IN. He was preceded in death by his daughter Amy Alison Kellams, his parents, Armal and Frances Kellams, and in-laws Philip and Clarabell Fox.

 We acknowledge with deepest gratitude the over-whelming outpouring of love, support and prayers provided during this challenging time. We kindly

and respectively request that in lieu of sending flowers please consider one of the following worth while causes to support in Marc's honor:

Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP) at Indiana Bar Foundation, <https://pages.elevate.salesforce.org/indianabarfoundation/indiana-bar-foundation>

Saint Meinrad at [www.stmeinrad.edu](http://www.stmeinrad.edu)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church at [www.stcharlesbloomington.org](http://www.stcharlesbloomington.org)

Ss. Francis & Clare of Assisi Catholic Church at [www.ss-fc.org](http://www.ss-fc.org)

A Mass Of Christian Burial will be held Friday, August 12, 2022 at 2:00PM at the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church 2222 East Third Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. Visitation will also be held at St. Charles from 11:00AM until the time of the Mass at 2:00PM.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **12.** 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St Charles Borromeo Church  
2222 E 3rd St  
Bloomington, IN 47401-5385  
(812) 336-6846

## Mass of Christian Burial

AUG **12.** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

St Charles Borromeo Church  
2222 E 3rd St  
Bloomington, IN 47401-5385  
(812) 336-6846

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ He was one of the best judges in monroe county as a judge he was an honest judge and nicest judge I ever meet and he will be missed by everyone who know him sorry for your loss to the family of this man



michele crail - March 30, 2024 at 08:03 AM

KH

“ You changed my life. I will forever be grateful and always remember. Thank you for everything and Godspeed.



Kevin H. - April 25, 2023 at 02:44 PM

GF

“ Marc and family were never-to-be forgotten neighbors and friends way back before law school, with memories too numerous to count... a reminder from Eccles, "A time to dance, a time to mourn." The family in our prayers through this time of grief.

Grafton-Houg Family - September 16, 2022 at 01:41 PM



“ I was so sad to hear of Judge Kellams's unexpected passing. I was his clerk during law school 20 years ago. He was always so kind and patient, with a sense of humor and good nature that made him beloved by every last person in the Justice Building. He spoke often about his wife and daughters. You could tell how excited he was to spend time with them, and how proud he was of all that his daughters did. Another former clerk told me of how she chose him to officiate her wedding, because Judge Kellams meant so much to her.

I witnessed his thoughtful work during both mundane and very serious court matters. I could not have asked for a better example of what a judge should be or what a good person should be. May his spirit shine forever. ~Anna Bednarski

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**Anna Bednarski** - September 02, 2022 at 10:41 AM



“ I was incredibly saddened to hear of Judge Kellams' passing. I was his law clerk 30 years ago. During the two years that I worked with and supported him, we spent many hours in chambers discussing and debating the law. He always remained focused on "doing the right thing" - and it was my job to find the law and craft the opinions that supported Judge Kellams' decisions. He taught me how to be an advocate - but to also be compassionate. I learned so much from him that my law school professors could never teach. Judge Kellams launched my career and I will be forever grateful. The bible that he gave to me when I graduated from law school will forever be one of my most prized possessions. Indiana has truly lost a great jurist, a kind and ethical man and a very talented educator.

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**J. Reed** - August 18, 2022 at 03:32 PM

TO

“ He may not remember me but he left a lasting impression on me that will last a lifetime. He was so extremely gracious to me. I found myself in his court room. He said to me, ”you made a mistake and that mistake does not define the man that you are!” “In fact I am sure you are a better man today than you were the day you got in trouble.”

*I also want to tell you that God put me there the day of the accident. My daughters car was hit by a tire and I ran to the vehicle. I checked for a pulse and could not find one. I helped with Christine and truly feel that is why God put me there.*

*Although, I never met him he was always have a place in my heart!*

*So sorry to the family for this tragic event!*

*You will be in my thoughts and prayers!*

*Judge, thank you for changing my life!*

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**todd** - August 14, 2022 at 06:22 PM

TP

“ The way Uncle Mark spoke brought warmth and joy. It's as if he saw the world a better and happier place. The words he used when he spoke about my father made me both proud of what I heard, but it also clearly identified uncle Mark as one of those very few superior men worthy of imitation. When men like him go, Its because their work here is complete. I am happy to have shared the moments I did with him.



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**Thomas Patton** - August 12, 2022 at 02:14 PM

BB

“ My condolences to the Kellams family. Marc and Chris were wonderful neighbors to my mother and sister (Sylvia and Kathy Sloan) when they lived in Park Ridge East. I have fond memories of delivering a piece of mail that had mistakenly been put in mom’s mailbox, and Marc proudly showing me his new daschund puppy when he answered the door. Sending love to you.  
Barbara Bowlen

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**Barbara Bowlen** - August 12, 2022 at 11:14 AM

PL

“ Dear Christina and family,  
I was very sad to hear of Marc’s passing. He was a good man and helped many people throughout his years as a judge and as a deacon at St. Charles. He will be missed.  
Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.  
Pam Luck

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**Pam Luck** - August 11, 2022 at 07:58 PM

SF

“ Sending love to you all. Judge Kellams was so loved and will be greatly missed. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Sara (Eldridge) French

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**Sara French** - August 11, 2022 at 01:50 PM

BS

“ *Bill S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams.*



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**Bill S.** - August 11, 2022 at 11:48 AM



“ *Good Sir,*

*AT 50 yrs old, my LIFE and SUCCESS (in the legal arena) is the result of your guidance, support, and/or direction.*

*(Yep . . . I was a misguided youth many years ago (before meeting you).)*

*Regardless of my donation to your burial church, your family is ALWAYS welcome at my Brazil, IN home.*

*(I will vacate my own home IF that is what is needed for them to be comfortable.)*

*Rest in peace Good Sir!!!!*

*-ron-*

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**Ronald Blake** - August 09, 2022 at 05:14 PM

SH

“ *The Honorable Judge Kellams was indeed Honorable and he was a Judge for as long as most people have known him. He was also Deacon Kellams and Professor Kellams. But, in his mind as shown to everyone in any situation, he was Marc. He was willing to help all and be a friend to all and he wanted all to know that he cared about them - person to person.*

*He and I became close when my son passed because of a brain tumor. His daughter had passed years before for the same reason. Even with his deep faith, he struggled and struggled with this loss. He then used his struggles to help me. What an incredible blessing for me, Marc sharing perspectives that I would not have found without him.*

*Now to be clear, Judge, Professor, and Deacon were titles he didn't jump up and down with joy because he had them. But, there were a few titles that he did jump up and down for joy because of them; for example- Papa, Daddy, and Hubby. When Marc talked about his family, his joy flowed from him like a sunrise at Niagara Falls with birds chirping all around. His joy was overwhelming.*

*Will always love you Marc.*

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**Steve Heimann** - August 09, 2022 at 04:55 PM

GP

“ *Dear Chris, Sarah, and Katie*  
*We were saddened to learn of Marc's passing, and so very sorry for your loss. He was such a wonderful man and will be fondly remembered.*

*Gary and Linda Plaford*  
*Hampstead, North Carolina*

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**Gary Plaford** - August 09, 2022 at 04:05 PM

SE

“ Words can't express my sadness. Marc was a good, kind and fair man with a wonderful wife and family. We were so fortunate to have him as part of our extended family.

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**Scott Eberle** - August 09, 2022 at 03:56 PM

TP

“ I am so thankful that my career path led me to the Monroe County Judicial System. There I met people who worked tirelessly for a better Bloomington, Indiana which included Judge Kellams. Always a kind man who deeply cared about everyone he met or lives that he touched. Someone who was always fair and impartial. Never heard him speak an unkind word. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, whom he loved and always spoke of fondly. There will never be another like Judge Kellams.

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**Tammie Andersen (nee Prince)** - August 09, 2022 at 08:12 AM

JM

“ I, like so many thousands of others in this community and State, benefited greatly from this caring and faith filled man. In 2004, I was hospitalized for a very serious surgery and during recovery, Marc came to the hospital to bring me the Eucharist. He was one of the most caring and humble men I have ever met. My deepest sympathy to his family.

*Jim Montgomery*

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**Jim Montgomery** - August 08, 2022 at 08:33 PM

SE

“ I met Marc 25 years ago, His genuineness as a caring person radiated from him. The finest man I ever met. Miss you brother and friend,

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**Steven Eads** - August 08, 2022 at 05:14 PM

DW

“ Marc touched our family so beautifully. We are forever grateful! We are so very sorry for your loss. Marc was so very caring. Thank you.

Debbie and Scott Walters - August 08, 2022 at 04:29 PM

MB

“ My name is Mary Beth Nardella, I am Kayleigh's mother-in-law and Nick's mom. We wanted to extend our deepest condolences in the loss of your dad/husband. We did not know him but he seems to have been a very well liked and respectable gentleman. RIP  
Mary Beth and Dan Nardella

Mary Beth - August 07, 2022 at 06:58 PM

MC

“ Sorry for your lost to the honor judge mac kellems and family he was a great judge in Monroe county he will be missed to everyone who knew him my prayers are with his family

Michele Crail - August 07, 2022 at 04:12 AM

RA

“ Marc was always, ALWAYS, a real gentlemen.

Roy Graham, Attorney - August 06, 2022 at 06:10 PM

LW

“ Marc and I worked together with the Archdiocese Corrections Ministry. His leadership, compassion and service affected the lives of many across the state. I speak for myself and those who aren't able to share their appreciation in this way— He was truly an amazing man who lived his faith.

Lynne Weisenbach - August 06, 2022 at 04:55 PM

JA

“ *Jewell And Lee Arthur lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams*



Jewell and Lee Arthur - August 06, 2022 at 12:53 PM

SC

“ *We are so sorry for your loss! Marc was an amazing person and it was such a privilege to have known him from when we were just kids playing on South Lincoln Street. I know he will be missed by so many.*

*Kenny & Susie (Stout) Clendening*

*Dan & Donna (Stout) Monroe*

Susie Stout Clendening - August 06, 2022 at 10:31 AM

SD

“ *Siobhan Dennis lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams*



Siobhan Dennis - August 06, 2022 at 09:35 AM

NO

*The Lord sent Deacon Marc into my life at times when I most need ministry. His compassionate ministry is a model for those who serve God and carry His light out into a dark world. Deacon Marc's memory will always be a blessing to anyone who knew him. May God grant his family peace and tender consolation. May perpetual light shine on his soul.*

Nancy Ramsden Owen - August 07, 2022 at 07:20 PM

JB

“ Jennifer Bailey lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams



Jennifer Bailey - August 06, 2022 at 09:15 AM

K'

“ Judge Kellams was my professor for trial advocacy at IU which was my favorite and most helpful course in law school. I also appeared in his court many times as an intern in the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office. Through those experiences, I learned so much from him that served me well during my career. I am so saddened by his death and saddened that I didn't stay in touch and only at his death did I learn he and his wife lived just a few miles away. We've lost a good one on earth, but there is comfort in knowing he's with God now.

Kim Rhoades (Kelley) '83 - August 06, 2022 at 08:49 AM

BN

“ Bill And Carla Newby lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams



Bill and Carla Newby - August 06, 2022 at 07:25 AM

TF

“ *Ted Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams*



Ted Ferguson - August 06, 2022 at 02:40 AM

DH

“ *David Hiestand lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams*



david hiestand - August 05, 2022 at 07:46 PM

DL

“ *I am blessed and fortunate to have known Judge/Deacon Kellams in more than one capacity. I enjoyed working with him, listening to him from the front row of STC, and jointly watching his grandchildren play my children on the court! He was an inspirational, kind, and outstanding individual. He will be greatly missed and his mark on the world forever embraced.*

Dawn Lindeman - August 05, 2022 at 06:45 PM



Marsha Johnson

“ *Marsha Johnson lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams*



Marsha Johnson - August 05, 2022 at 10:09 AM



“ *Marsha Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams*



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**Marsha Johnson** - August 05, 2022 at 10:09 AM

TN

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I worked for Judge Kellams for over two years and he was an amazing, person, boss and friend. My heart goes out to the family.*

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**TANA NIKIRK** - August 05, 2022 at 07:37 AM



*My thoughts and prayers being sent to Judge Kellams Family and to his many many friends.. 🙏*

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**Marsha Johnson** - August 05, 2022 at 10:07 AM

TN

“ *TANA NIKIRK lit a candle in memory of Honorable Marc Reed Kellams*



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**TANA NIKIRK** - August 05, 2022 at 07:36 AM