



Martin "Kelly" Burton

June 24, 1970 - May 8, 2014

BURTON, Mr. Martin "Kelly" - age 43, passed away, Thursday, May 8, 2014 at his residence. Family hour 1:00PM Thursday, May 15, 2014 from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., with funeral service commencing immediately at 1:30PM. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 N. Belford Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the funeral home 1:00PM Thursday. Mr. Burton will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral home, and may be viewed from 4-8PM Wednesday.

Mr. Martin Kelley Burton was born June 24, 1970 at Los Robies Hospital in Thousand Oaks, California the son of Louise Annette Goddard of Wisconsin and Anthony Mabron Burton of Flint, Michigan. The summer that Martin was two years of age, just shy of his third birthday, his father brought him to Flint, MI. He had always been told that he was born in California but his home was in Michigan because that is where his family was. The summer that Martin, who was always called by his middle name, Kelly, turned five years old he again was visiting his family in Flint, Michigan. He spent that summer with his aunt Loretta and uncle Charles Kelley and their two children Shawn and Jason. It was getting close to the time for school to start when the decision was made that Martin would stay in Michigan and begin kindergarten in Flint. Everybody was happy. He was enrolled in Flint Community Schools system at Brownwell Elementary. He stayed with his aunt, uncle and cousins through the

fifth grade. He had long referred to his aunt and uncle as “Mama” and “Dad”. During this time he attended their church home, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church where he was baptized on January 28, 1979 by Pastor H. B. Dixon. During that time he also became a cub scout.

Martin returned to California for his middle and high school education where he ran track, became a serious biker as well as being known for rapping. He graduated from Santa Monica High School in 1988. He always said he would go to college in Michigan-he almost did; along with his cousin Jason he attended University of Toledo where he received his Associates Degree in Business Communications. After leaving college Martin enlisted in the United State Navy where he was a Divisional Supply Officer stationed on the USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN-71. He was in the military from 1992-1996 and received an honorable discharge. In keeping with his roots, he returned home to Michigan settling in the Oakland and Wayne counties where he began his culinary career. He attended Dorsey Culinary School. He was employed at Red Lobster, Applebee’s in various positions from back-up chef, preparations, line-chef, bartender, server and trainer. His last employment was at Vivio’s Restaurant in Warren, Michigan as a cook.

Mr. Burton will always be remembered and lived by his family, those cherishing sweet memories; father, Anthony Mabron Burton; birth mother, Louise Goddard; siblings Juanita and Yomo Burton both of California; immediate family, “His Mama”/aunt, Loretta D. “Aunt Peaches” Kelley; brother/cousin, Jason Kelly; sister/cousin, Shawn Hall (Jeffrey) Vann of Pontiac, MI; as well as many cousins, aunts and uncles.

Mr. Burton was preceded in death by his adopted father, Charles Kelley; and grandmothers, Mary Jefferson and Lula Mae Kelley.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 14. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac
268 North Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Service

MAY 15. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

LJ

“ I wish I had got to meet my half brother Kelly. It is a deepest regret for me and my other siblings. I thank his family for acknowledging his birth mother Louise. Blessings to all of Kelly's family. May his memory warm your nights and his spirit brighten your days. I truly appreciate to learn of his life and hear about who he was, obviously an amazing person with a beautiful heart. May his soul be forever blessed by God's Love. I pray he is close with his father and his birth mother, now in heaven. Sending all of my respect and condolences to his family. Sincerely and with all my heart, - Lisa Louise Jacobsen, Daughter of Louise Annette Goddard

Lisa Jacobsen - October 26, 2025 at 01:05 AM

AB

“ Allison Brown lit a candle in memory of Martin "Kelly" Burton



Allison Brown - June 20, 2025 at 04:03 PM

GW

“ Think the first time I met Kelly was at John Adams Junior High School as we were running in a physical fitness test- He passed me up... Haha:) So many fond memories throughout High School. Running cross country and track, boogie boarding, bicycling Malibu, camping, skiing, playing basketball, and hanging out at each other's houses. Tony would tell us, "Boys you got to learn responsibility!" Grateful his dad said that. My grandfather said Kelly had a gentle nature. We sometimes hung out at Morgan's. I remember playing Scrabble and Morgan challenged Kelly's word, yeah. Kelly replied something to the effect, "I told you, if it sounds like a word, it's probably a word." Well, my condolences. With LOVE, GW AKA Geoffrey Lee John3:16 & 11:11

Geoffrey Waldroop - June 18, 2017 at 04:42 AM

DM

“ So sorry to hear this shocking news at such a late date! I was Martin's track coach at Samohi (Santa Monica h.s.). He was our #1 track distance runner his senior runner. His 4:25 mile time was achieved through talent and dedicated training. And he was a great teammate. Our cross country team was a league champion team, and he was a very important contributor to that success. I hope he and my fellow Samohi track coach, Mike Griswold (who preceded him in death 2+ years ago) are now both exchanging track stories of those days gone by!

Don Murphy - Feb 28, 2016

don murphy - February 28, 2016 at 12:39 PM

RJ

“ "Kelly"? I'm shocked. My teen love and prom date "88". Prayers to the Burton family. Very sadden by the late news.

Renee Jacques - Curry (Los Angeles)

renee jacques - January 01, 2016 at 02:28 AM

HM

“ Kelly was so genuine. Everyday I walked into work he would smile at me and ask me how I was, how life was, always interested in others lives. This is such a shock and the family is in my prayers. I'll be saying a prayer for the passage of his soul. Such a good person.

Haley MP - May 16, 2014 at 10:11 AM

JU

“ I worked with Martin for a while at Lena in Ann Arbor. Very sad to know he has passed. Wondering how he died. Rest in peace, Martin.

justin - May 15, 2014 at 10:59 PM

PS

“ Piere A Burton Sr. lit a candle in memory of Martin "Kelly" Burton



Piere A Burton Sr. - May 15, 2014 at 01:24 PM

WD

“ God bless you Kelly, my condolences to the Burton family from Walt Duncan & family.

Walt Duncan - May 15, 2014 at 12:31 AM

JC

“ *Jocelin Cardenas lit a candle in memory of
Martin "Kelly" Burton*



Jocelin Cardenas - May 14, 2014 at 09:42 PM

RB

“ *R.I.P. "Roller"! May God be with the Burton and Kelley Families!!!*

Romie Brown

Romie Brown - May 14, 2014 at 12:06 PM

SM

“ *"The Roller" Gonna miss u bro*

Smiles - May 14, 2014 at 07:20 AM

DW

“ *A beautiful soul has left us feeling empty. No one could have told me that you would be gone this soon. I have known you from a little beautiful, boy. You were always a gentleman as you searched to find your way in life's journey. Many obstacles you were able to overcome as you grew into the man who would make the world proud. My daughter became one of your closest friends and confidant that you shared your deepest feelings and fears. You will always be loved and missed.*



Dr. Veronica Williams-Latnie - May 13, 2014 at 09:59 PM

JU

Sorry for your loss. Martin was a very nice man. Do you know how he died?

justin - May 15, 2014 at 11:01 PM

NI

“ *It is with a sad heart that I write this tribute to my friend, but to say friend, is too mild of a word to use to characterize our relationship. I have been a friend of the family since I was 3 years old and grew up with Kelly. We spent many days throughout the years talking to each other, visiting each other, and writing to each other. My fondest memory is when he came to my house and taught me how to cook a proper steak in a cast iron skillet. He was working at Outback at the time and he told me "never put soap and water in your cast iron skillet, you're going to ruin the seasoning of the skillet, just wipe it out". He was right!*

*Your friend always,
Nicole "Nikki" Williams*

Nicole - May 13, 2014 at 08:58 PM

ER

“ *Ericka lit a candle in memory of Martin "Kelly" Burton*



Ericka - May 12, 2014 at 10:48 AM

ER

“ *Rest In Peace My Friend!!!!*

Ericka & Darryl Reynolds

Ericka - May 12, 2014 at 10:32 AM

TF

“ Hi, I want to say that I grew up with Martin "Kelly" Burton! I remember the ski trips we did. Hanging out with friends like Mario Allen, Sharmel Day, Eric Davis & Derek Rogers doing stuff around the Santa Monica. He will be mist even though I only chatted with him these past few years on Facebook. The lord was ready for your services! My prayers go out to all the family and friends that reads this. Sincerely, Terry Flenoy from Santa Monica,CA.

Terrance Flenoy - May 11, 2014 at 03:41 PM

PS

May God bless you my cousin . Truely you will be missed

Piere A Burton Sr. - May 15, 2014 at 01:09 PM