



Kelly Ray Willms

October 31, 1967 - May 31, 2026

Kelly Ray Willms, 58, born in Omaha, Nebraska, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Kelly graduated in 1985 from Central High School, then immediately joined the United States Navy. During his time in the Navy, he served in American Embassies around the world and NASA. Kelly retired from the Navy in 2012, as a Master Chief E9. Kelly then moved on to the US Department of Interior as Chief of Security. Kelly worked tirelessly, ensuring that the Department of Interior's personnel, hired at top senior positions, met the criteria necessary to be brought on board to do the jobs at hand. This included researching individual's background information, and ensuring their fingerprints were taken and evaluated.

Kelly retired his career with the United States Government after being one of a few DOI executives ever to be honored as a Senior Fellow, due to his leadership roles inside the Department of Interior and shown by his 2024 graduation from the Federal Executive Institute.

His determination to better himself and stand beside his fellow Americans time after time, shows his dedication to his county. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Ernest and Dorothy Willms, of Griswold, Iowa, Alton and Alice Dilley, of Cumberland, Iowa, and William and Ann Faust of Omaha,

Nebraska, along with many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Kelly is survived by his husband, Martin Finnegan; daughter, Rose Marie; parents, Ronald and Beverly Willms, and Shirley Christie; siblings, Bobbi Wagner (Scott), Lisa Purdy (Jeff), Jeff Willms (Jenea), Jennifer Willms, and JoAnn Willms. He also leaves behind several nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and his little princess, Cinnabun, Kaiser, Storm, and Mr. Sprinkles.