

Services are scheduled today for ex-county clerk Tom Kelley

Services will be today for Tom M. Kelley, a lifelong county resident who was the county clerk from 1954-74. Mr. Kelley died Friday at his home in Pleasant Valley after a lengthy illness. He was 86.



Kelley

A native of San Jose, Mr. Kelley spent his early years on the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, first as a concession worker and later as a dancer/entertainer for the Seaside Company. He graduated from San Jose High School and attended Stanford University during the Great Depression.

He started his professional career as a chief cashier for the Seaside Company and later was appointed deputy city clerk for the city of Santa Cruz.

In World War II, he served as a machine gunner in Germany and France with the 28th Infantry Division — a key element in the Allied success in the Battle of the Bulge — and attained the rank of staff sergeant. He earned six battle stars and numerous service medals.

After the war, he resumed his job with the city of Santa Cruz. In 1954, he ran successfully for county clerk and was re-elected for five four-year terms, retiring in 1975. Under his leadership and foresight, Santa Cruz was the first county in California to institute a computerized election system.

He was extremely active in professional and civic organizations throughout his life. He was a member of the Santa Cruz Kiwanis Club for 42 years, past VFW Post Commander for Post 888, Central Santa Cruz County Water District Director for 21 years, Santa Cruz County Fair board member and president,

and a dedicated volunteer in founding the Holy Eucharist Catholic Parish in Corralitos. He also volunteered with the Corralitos Padres and the Native Sons of the Golden West.

During his retirement, he enjoyed artistic hobbies and travel.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Beverly A. Kelley of Corralitos; a son, Brian Kelley of Clovis; a daughter, Karell Reader of Watsonville; two grandchildren; and a new great-grandson.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. today at the Holy Eucharist Catholic Community Church. Graveside services at the Veteran's Section of Santa Cruz Memorial Park will follow.

Memorial contributions are preferred to the Hospice Caring Project, 6851 Soquel Drive, Aptos, Calif. 95003, or the Holy Eucharist Catholic Community Building Fund, 527 Corralitos Road, Corralitos, Calif. 95076.