

# Santa Fe County Proclamation

## PROCLAIMING MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> AS “DANIEL T. ‘BUD’ KELLY JR. DAY”

Introduced by: Commissioner Anna Hansen

**WHEREAS**, Daniel T. “Bud” Kelly Jr. (“Bud”), was born in Santa Fe on March 22, 1921, to Margaret Gross and Daniel T. Kelly Sr., a prominent and historically significant family that owned and operated Gross Kelly & Company, a pioneering wholesale and retail mercantile company synonymous with the development of the Southwest; and

**WHEREAS**, as a boy, Bud worked on the Gross Kelly ranches in eastern New Mexico and accompanied his father on business trips where he met merchants and traders along the trails, learned to rope and ride with cowboys who worked on the ranches, and fell in love with New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Bud built upon his family’s legacy and commitment to civic responsibility by not only serving his country in World War II and Korea and graduating from Harvard, but by returning to Santa Fe to help establish and grow many of Santa Fe County’s most beloved institutions and organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, after serving as president of Gross Kelly until it was sold to Kimbell Co., in the mid-1950s; Bud partnered with Howell Ernest Insurance Company, acquired full ownership of the company in 1965 and remained at the helm of the Kelly Insurance Co. until his retirement in the early 1980s; and

**WHEREAS**, his work brought him into contact with local luminaries and icons with whom he formed lasting friendships, including: Ernie Blake of Taos Ski Valley, John Crosby of the Santa Fe Opera, the painter Georgia O’Keefe, Compound restaurant owner Bill Hooton and designer Alexander Girard; and

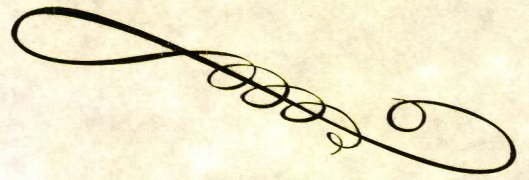
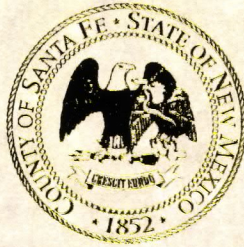
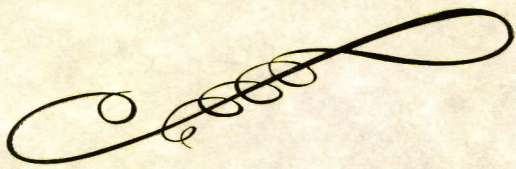
**WHEREAS**, he was an active member of the Santa Fe business community, serving as a founding board member for St. John’s College, Santa Fe Preparatory School, and the Santa Fe Opera; director of the First National Bank and president of the School of American Research (SAR); and

**WHEREAS**, an early supporter of the Santa Fe Opera, Bud is still remembered for presenting an insurance check for \$130,000 within hours of the fire that destroyed the opera house in 1967, and the money enabled the opera to continue that year’s season in the gym of the old Santa Fe High School campus, which now serves as City Hall; and

**WHEREAS**, Bud’s longtime friend Nancy Wirth said: “Bud was certainly involved in the establishment of and support for a whole slew of local organizations. He was in there slugging for what were then new groups, and thus he played an important role in shaping Santa Fe”; and

**WHEREAS**, Bud’s civic contributions earned him recognition as a Santa Fe Living Treasure in 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, his love of the outdoors led to his passionate participation in the Pajarito Walking Group, Santa Fe Winter Ski Club, the Kiva Squash Club, and the Santa Fe Chile and Marching Society; and



**WHEREAS**, Bud authored "The Buffalo Tail," an autobiography that built upon his father's book, "The Buffalo Head," and conveys his knowledge and memory of the great and formative events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and

**WHEREAS**, Bud could be found throughout the year tending to his 128-acre tract in the Santa Fe National Forest and people in Santa Fe would easily recognize him on the street with his Stetson Open Road, a Brooks Brothers tweed jacket, button down shirt accented by an ascot, wool slacks, cowboy boots, and in later years, a cane; and

**WHEREAS**, Bud married Jeanne Wise, a native New Yorker, in the mid-1950s, and together they had four children: Susan, Thomas, Robert, and Pamela; and

**WHEREAS**, his family and loved ones describe him as: "the embodiment of the great sweep of New Mexico history and lore, a gentleman cowboy, and community builder"; "simply and profoundly human: he had a passionate curiosity mixed with a fiery temper"; "a devout man and incessant flirt"; and "a fastidious man who lacked attachments to material things"; and

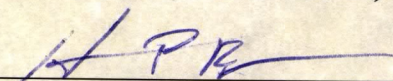
**WHEREAS**, Bud passed away on August 18, 2020, at age 99; and

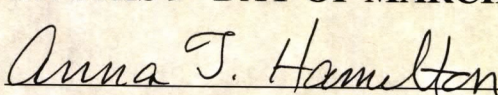
**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners wishes to honor Bud on the occasion of what would have been his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday for his service to our country and Santa Fe County by his example, and his indelible impact on the County and its citizens.

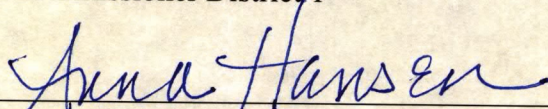
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE 22<sup>nd</sup> OF MARCH, AS:**

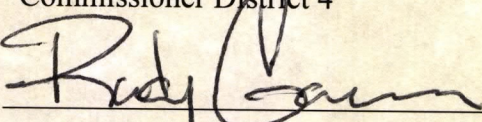
**"DANIEL T. 'BUD' KELLY JR. DAY"**

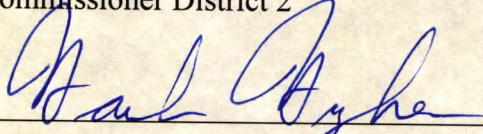
**APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2021.**

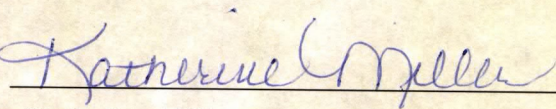
  
 Henry P. Roybal, Chair  
 Commissioner District 1

  
 Anna T. Hamilton, Vice-Chair  
 Commissioner District 4

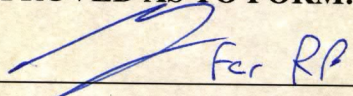
  
 Anna Hansen  
 Commissioner District 2

  
 Rudy N. Gardia  
 Commissioner District 3

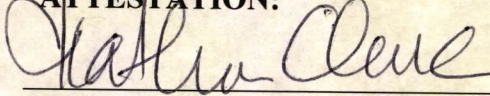
  
 Hank Hughes  
 Commissioner District 5

  
 Katherine Miller  
 County Manager

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
 Gregory S. Shaffer  
 County Attorney

**ATTESTATION:**

  
 Katharine E. Clark  
 County Clerk

