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Remembering Col. Paul M. Kelly

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The University of Dayton will offer a Mass for the intention of Col. Paul M. Kelly and his family at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10, in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus.

A 1984 graduate of the University of Dayton, Kelly is believed to be the first UD graduate killed in Iraq.

The public is invited to the Mass, which will be attended by Kelly's family. An outdoor ceremony before the Mass will include a presentation of colors and the playing of taps by UD ROTC cadets. The Rev. Christopher Wittmann, S.M., director of campus ministry, will preside over the Mass. Kelly's brother, Patrick, will offer a eulogy at the beginning of Mass. A reception will follow in the Torch Lounge in Kennedy Union.

Kelly, 45, was one of 13 Americans killed Jan. 20 in a helicopter crash just outside Baghdad.

Kelly's connection to his alma mater ran deep. He was one of six children, all of whom graduated from the University of Dayton: Brita '84, Theresa '85, John '85, Patrick '90 and Tony '95. Col. Kelly's father, John, graduated in 1975 from UD with a master's degree and formerly served as director of graduate and alumni placement.

Kelly, who earned a degree in management, was commissioned through UD's ROTC program and held numerous leadership positions in the National Guard, serving in Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia. His assignments took him to the Pentagon, Bosnia and Iraq.

"We know that he bravely served his country. May his life serve as an example of selflessness and love," said Daniel J. Curran, UD's president.

Contact Father Chris Wittmann, S.M., at 937-229-3339.