

Dec. 9, 2016

Dear UA Community,

I, along with so many of us at the university, am deeply saddened by the sudden death of Mike Kelly, a friend and an exemplary man. Mike died tragically in a plane crash Dec. 7 and with him went the bright light of a husband, a father and grandfather who loved his family, and a man who served our state, Fairbanks and the university in many remarkable ways.

Mike provided strong leadership with compassion for others and with a tremendous sense of good humor. Through his long career, he served as a university regent (including as chair), led Golden Valley Electric Association, and represented Fairbanks as a lawmaker in the state house. Of course as a graduate of the UAF School of Business, he carried his alumni status proudly. He had many close friends within the university community, and we will always remember his spirit, his love of family and his statesmanship.

All of us at the University of Alaska extend our sincerest condolences to Mike's wife Cherie, his family and friends. I hope each of you will keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Jim Johnsen