



John Paul Keller

October 2, 1942 - December 27, 2018

John Paul Keller, 76, of Parsons, Tennessee, formerly of Anna, died on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at Decatur County Hospital in Parsons, Tennessee.

He was born on October 2, 1942 to Donald Herbert Keller and Helen Pickles Keller.

Dad wore many hats during his long productive life, but his favorite job was being a salesman. Whether selling insurance, cars, or grain bins, he loved selling so much he always marveled that people paid him to do it. What he loved most about the job was interacting with other people and telling stories. You couldn't go anywhere in the Southeastern or Mid United States where he didn't know someone or knew where the good restaurant was. As a result of selling grain bins for over 40 years, he would always point out grain bins that he was involved with while crossing the by ways and highways of America.

Dad's job involved a tremendous amount of driving for which he was well known. He would often meet with farmers one day, drive all night and meet with others the next day 100's of miles away. Even after his retirement, he was always up for a trip and always in a hurry to get there. We sometimes referred to him as "gotta go."

When not working, he enjoyed fishing and golfing. You would be hard pressed to meet a crappie fisherman that knew more about it than he. He would always remind us "if you aren't getting hung up, you won't catch any fish." When it came to golf, he was one of the few I ever saw wearing cowboy boots on greens at the Union County Country Club.

Dad was born and grew up here in Anna, Illinois and graduated A-J High school in 1960. Following graduation he served in the United States Army Reserves for 6 years. About 30 years ago, he moved to Central Tennessee, where he continued to live the remainder of his life. He referred to the people that lived on his hill with him outside of Parsons, Tennessee as his family.

He always went out of his way to help out those around him. In the family, we referred to him as the reform school where we sent members for help. His door was always open. Others felt he went too far and people took advantage of his good nature, but he would explain he didn't want to go to his grave thinking that he might have helped out someone but hadn't. He was an active member of Sardis Ridge Baptist Church in Parsons, TN, where he volunteered often for building projects.

Dad enjoyed a relatively healthy life and never allowed anything or anyone to slow him down.

He is survived by his son, Tim Keller (Elaina) and children, Sydney Waters, Sailor Waters, Rosemary Waters, Elias Keller, Soren Keller, and Will Keller, his daughter Becky Hebel (Robert) and children, Samantha Nelson (Jedidiah) and children, Tatum and Caleb, Brandi Grice (Tommy), his sister Linda Kay Lence (Jim), and their family, Jeff Lence (Debbie), Jeffrey Lence, Jeffrey Lence, Reese Lence, Kylee Angel, Guinevere Angel, Eleanor Angel, Levi Lence, Brian Lence, Sabrina Lence, Chris Lence (Debbie), special cousin, Mike Keller (Marilyn) and other cousins and relatives.

Visitation will be from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 30, 2018 at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro.

John's life will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Monday, December 31, 2018 at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro. Those attending are invited to share a story about John. Interment will follow in Ebenezer Hall Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Ebenezer Hall Cemetery or American Diabetes Association and will be accepted at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Ebenezer Hall Cemetery

Lick Creek, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna
135 W. Vienna St.
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-2176
crain@crainsonline.com

Service

DEC **31**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna
135 W. Vienna St.
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-2176
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall



“ *John Paul Keller*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Gena Snow lit a candle in memory of John Paul Keller*



Gena Snow - January 02, 2019 at 08:37 AM



“ *I ran the GSI Golf Outing for years. John would call me and Say "Y'all don't forget to invite me !" This was usually 2 months in advance. He really enjoyed it and we loved having him there ! He was a joy just to visit with.*

Alan Wempen - December 31, 2018 at 04:53 PM



“ *Doug And Lisa O'Neal lit a candle in memory of John Paul Keller*



Doug and Lisa O'Neal - December 31, 2018 at 04:23 PM



“ *Tim and Becky so sorry for your loss.*

Brenda Hileman - December 31, 2018 at 12:38 PM

SO

“ Susan Oliver lit a candle in memory of John Paul Keller



Susan Oliver - December 30, 2018 at 08:28 PM

DW

“ I am sad to learn of his passing. My husband and I just recently had Sunday dinner with him at the Corner Grill in Parsons. I met John years ago in Anna when he and his friends would come into Southern BarBQue to eat where I worked. He was a great friend and spoke of his family. He was a proud grandpa.

Deborah Chamness Walker - December 30, 2018 at 09:37 AM



“ Hugs Becky and Tim. Bought 2 grain bins from him in '85. Most effort it took was for me to call and ask what he had and then mail a check when it was done. We had to lick stamps in those days and it was hard. Arranged everything over the phone and all I had to do was see them when done. Easy to deal with. Cheers. d

D - December 29, 2018 at 10:45 PM

MC

“ Sharon and Jim Craterfield wish to show our sympathy in the loss of dad, friend , grandpa and family member who enjoyed every day of his life , may you be comforted .

mr and Mrs Jim Craterfield - December 29, 2018 at 04:35 PM

RM

“ So sorry for your loss and ours also. He was a faithful church member at Sardis Ridge Baptist Church in Parsons, Tennessee and loved to build and repair things around the church. He had a big heart and would help anyone in need.

His love for fishing has provided many fish dinners for his friends! I hope he has a golden fishing rod in heaven and the fish are huge!

Rhonda Mitchell

Parsons, TN

Rhonda Mitchell - December 29, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of John Paul Keller.



December 29, 2018 at 10:20 AM

SW

“ Scott Walker purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of John Paul Keller.



Scott Walker - December 28, 2018 at 06:07 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Paul Keller.* ”



December 28, 2018 at 03:03 PM