



## Keith M. McQuarrie

May 12, 1946 - January 8, 2024

IN MEMORY OF:

Keith M. McQuarrie

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Keith M. McQuarrie, 77 of Carbondale, passed away on Monday, January 8, 2024 at his home.

Keith was born on May 12, 1946 in Peoria IL to Harold and Betty (Hoffman) McQuarrie. He was a graduate of Woodruff High School and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. During his academic years, Keith was a member of the SIU Skydiving team with 100's of jumps to his credit.

Keith was drafted during the Vietnam war and served his country for 2 years in the Army. He was a member of the Murphysboro Legion and Honor Guard for the last 14 years. He also directed the Veterans Golf scramble which raised money for local veterans in need.

Keith retired from SIU as Chief Academic Advisor for the college of Applied

Sciences and Arts. During his tenure, he received the distinguished award of Administrative Professional Employee of the year.

Keith was a lifetime member of the River to River Running club and served as race director for the River to River Relay for 10 years. He was an accomplished athlete completing many marathons and triathlons. His proudest accomplishment was qualifying for and competing in the Ironman World Championships in Kona Hawaii. He was active in Senior Golf League at Hickory Ridge golf course. Keith made an annual trip to the Boundary Waters of Minnesota and Canada where he fished for the last 73 years. He also gave back to his community by volunteering for many years at the Newman Center Thanksgiving dinner, St. Francis Christmas dinner and Victory Dream Center food pantry.

Keith was a loving, gentle person who touched many lives and always had a smile, strong handshake and positive outlook.

Survivors include his wife Sandra Semrow of Carbondale and his brother Neil McQuarrie of Ann Arbor Michigan.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A service is being planned for a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crain Pleasant Gove-Murdale Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

S1

“ *The Peoria, IL Woodruff HS Warrior Nation mourns the loss of a fellow alum.* ”



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**S. D. Anderson, WHS Class 1965** - December 30, 2024 at 02:28 PM

“ Sandy and Family

*I am sorry I am late to this posting; I only just learned of Keith's passing.*

*Keith and I served together at the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany in 1970 and, though we lost touch after the war for nearly 50 years, he was a steadfast and wonderful friend all that time. When I located him again a few years ago, it was as if we'd never been apart.*

*When I was reassigned in 1970, Keith volunteered to drive my second car up to Bremerhaven for shipment to the USA. Despite snowy weather he braved the roads, and when the wipers gave out, finished the delivery by hanging out the window with a snow scraper so he could see to drive! Ever a friend in need - and ever stalwart! In the June of the last year, he told me, "I feel so good, that it is hard to imagine that I am sick. So, the daily activities have not changed. Still walking, swimming, weight training and cycling (and on Saturdays we go to yard sales)!" He told me his Mom figured she would never die with work unfinished, and added, "I am that way with books. I always have 3 - 4 waiting to be started." We shared that love of reading, and he encouraged me in my own fledgling writing efforts.*

*When I wrote to him about my own misgivings about a surprise cancer diagnosis of my own, his response was, "As with most things in life, your attitude and outlook will play a large role in your outcome. I have always said that I see no value in anything other than a positive view of things. So, move forward with that in mind and keep your spirits high and your feet moving forward." He made a point of inviting updates from me and said, "I am honored to call you friend and to walk beside you and Betty Jo in this. My prayers will definitely include you. Always a blessing, and never a burden to hear from you."*

*When my own surgery was so successful, he was effusive in his gratitude for my outcome. And he said, as he was going in for port installation, "Well, I hope to use you as a role model in all of this." and "Glad that you and Betty Jo are walking beside us - thanks for being in my corner."*

*That's right, Keith. Ever in your corner.*



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**Patrick Dwyer** - October 20, 2024 at 06:55 PM

PC

“ *Sandy and Family - Keith was a very, very generous soul. He strongly supported veterans' causes and Toys for Tots as well as many other community charities. He will always be in my memories as a wonderful and giving person. It was also a pleasure working with him in various capacities on campus. Thank you Keith for all that you did to help make the world a better place. You are missed. Patty Cosgrove*

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**Patricia Cosgrove** - March 21, 2024 at 01:07 PM

CW

“ My sincere condolences to Sandy and Keith's family. I first met Keith in 1988 or 89 when I started my first student work job at SIU in the Admissions & Records Office in Woody Hall. He was always friendly and kind and had a sparkle in his eyes and a kind smile. We would have chats about R to R runners events and cycling including what type of pedals were best. :- ) I ended up following in Keith's professional footsteps a bit through the years. After he earned his master's and became an Advisor I was promoted to his former position in A&R. He took the time to show me all sorts of wonderful 'macro routines' he had set up to process student admissions so the work took only two clicks instead of 30. He was always looking for opportunities for efficiency. This likely was his mindset for athletic training as well. Keith moved on to being a Chief Advisor eventually and I moved on to an Advisor position and now have moved on to a Chief Advisor position as well. I will sincerely miss this unfailingly kind person.

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**Carol Westerman-Jones** - January 26, 2024 at 07:12 AM

NW

“ I met Keith at the end of his many work lives, in his function as the advisor for the School of Architecture... After he retired, he would come back to visit, and became "the bicycle man", complete with bike and helmet! Always remembering birthdays, sharing second-hand books (he made me discover funny writer Carl Hiaasen-I still have "Bad Monkey", Sandra!)... I saw Keith and Sandra a few weeks ago at Panera's where I was tutoring ESL ladies in English. We would see him there often, still dressed as a bicycle man, but having traded his two-wheeler, regrettably it seemed, for safer transportation. When I announced to one of my students that we lost "the bicycle man", she first smiled really big upon hearing his name, then shock registered on her face as she said, "But I saw him two weeks ago at Panera's..." and became sad. Good bye, sweet bicycle man!

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**Nadine Wojnarowski** - January 23, 2024 at 09:33 PM

NW

“ Nadine W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Keith M. McQuarrie.

Nadine W. - January 23, 2024 at 08:39 PM

KM

“ He lived a very good life. It ended too soon but was so full. We should all learn from his example

Kim H Miller - January 20, 2024 at 07:29 PM

SM

“ I first met Keith working at JC Penny's. We sold yours and batteries in the mid 70s. Lost track of him for a long time until I started taking classes at SIU. He was a counselor in the IT department. I didn't realize we attended the same high school at different times. I last saw him at the Victory Center a month or so ago. RIP Keith!

Steve Mitchell - January 19, 2024 at 06:40 PM

CM

“ Keith's smile and positivity lit up my work life at SIU-- what a helpful, knowledgeable, truly kind person. During our retirements, whether it be running into one another on the Chautauqua Bottoms Trail, at the Rec or around town, Keith was unfailingly cheerful, despite his health challenges. He was a class act and, along with Sandy, helped so many people throughout his life. Sandy, our sincere condolences -- please know he will be missed.  
Clare and Thom Mitchell

Clare H Mitchell - January 19, 2024 at 11:21 AM

SF

“ Sandy, We are so very sorry for your loss. We are happy we had the opportunity to know Keith for many years. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Scott & Paula Frisch - January 18, 2024 at 03:01 PM

MP

“ When our daughter, Mia was a baby, my husband, Mark traveled for work. Keith came over every Thursday to watch Hill Street Blues with me. If Mia was still awake, he'd rock her so that I could relax a bit. Keith hosted Sunday Running Club at his house, and Thanksgiving potluck supper. I'm so very grateful that we got to spend time together in April 2022. He was a good friend and we will miss him. Rest in Peace. Mary  
Best running buddy I ever had. Mark

Mark & Mary Peterburs - January 16, 2024 at 12:13 PM

LH

“ LaCaje Hill lit a candle in memory of Keith McQuarrie



LaCaje Hill - January 15, 2024 at 08:34 PM

NC

“ Nathaniel Cherry lit a candle in memory of Keith McQuarrie



Nathaniel Cherry - January 15, 2024 at 03:39 PM

KC

“ What a loss for all of us. Lots of good memories but I still laugh about how he shocked our daughters when they were young. Can't remember the set-up but the punchline was “and look what happened!” as he held up his hand (absent part of one finger). He will be missed!!

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**Katie Carl** - January 15, 2024 at 12:19 PM

SL

“ So sorry to hear this. Enjoyed seeing him in the CASA bldg during my years in the DH program and he married a former student. My sincerest condolences to Sandy.  
Sherri Lukes

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**Sherri Lukes** - January 15, 2024 at 08:21 AM

CS

“ Charley Sands lit a candle in memory of Keith McQuarrie



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**Charley Sands** - January 13, 2024 at 11:28 AM

CS

“ Last year Keith said he had this really nice jacket at home that needed a new zipper. I told him sure I would get it fixed . A few days later he brought the jacket in I was expecting leather or some high dollar jacket but to my surprise., Keith brought me an old retro jacket made from the old school nylon fabric with a pattern on it that reminded me of the old school jogging suits you know what I mean, only produced during the late 60s early 70s. I did get it fixed and he was such a happy man, he wore that jacket as if it was brand new. He wore it to Canada fishing , to volunteer at the food pantry, not to mention to play golf. I think it had to be one of his all time favorites. He absolutely cherished that jacket. So glad I could be of service my friend.

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**Charley Sands** - January 12, 2024 at 02:40 PM

NC

“ Keith was a dear friend and he will be sorely missed! I had the honor of knowing Keith for the last 9 years and working alongside him at Victory Dream Center food pantry. He was a kind-hearted, compassionate, loving man who was always upbeat and positive about the future even when his health suffered in his later years. What a joy and honor to have known and worked alongside Keith in feeding the hungry in Southern Illinois.

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**Nathan Cherry** - January 12, 2024 at 02:08 PM

BM

*I was so very sorry to learn of Keith's passing .I have known he and Sandy for many years..Just a wonderful man that impacted countless people in such a kind and caring way ..Such a blessing to have in your life !Will miss him every day !*

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**Bill Mc Minn** - January 13, 2024 at 01:43 PM

BH

*I would like to offer my heart-felt condolences for Keith's passing. Although having only knowing him a few years, we met at the SIU Rec center, I felt I knew him a lot longer. He was always a bright spot in my day. He would always tell me to, "Go ahead and take the rest of the afternoon off with pay!" He will be missed. Rest in peace Keith.*

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**Bill Huggett** - January 18, 2024 at 05:03 PM

JD

*Keith was a great guy. Always very generous with his time. He helped out at several events at the Newman Center. For the last several year he coordinated the delivery of many meals on Thanksgiving Day. Rest in Peace.*

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**JP Dunn** - January 19, 2024 at 12:47 PM

PB

*Keith's passing is a loss to this community. As I can see from the other remembrances, Keith touched a lot of people in many different ways. As a novice runner, it was always comforting to know that Keith and Sandy were running the time clocks at the 5k/10k/River to River runs. But more importantly, they were supporting the participants, and it felt personal to each of us. Clearly Keith supported more than runners. His loss came as a surprise to me. I thought he would last forever. I will/do miss him.*

*Paul Bennett*

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**Paul A Bennett** - January 29, 2024 at 10:47 AM

WM

*I think about Him Often, he had a wonderful lasting impression on ALL those who were blessed to know Him And Sandy*

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**william Mc Minn** - December 02, 2024 at 07:00 PM