



Keith Allen Stokes

January 18, 1952 - October 13, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of Keith Allen Stokes. He left this world Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:50 am in Carbondale Memorial Hospital.

Keith was born to Rip and Gloria Stokes, of Carbondale on January 18th, 1952. He grew up in a household full of family and friends and various pets, including a multitude of snakes he had sneaked in to the basement.

Keith's little brother Paul called Keith, "Keefy" which often came out sounding much like "Beasty" and the name stuck due to his affinity for all manner of beasts. Keith was a friend to everyone he met. His big heart was irresistible and to know him was to love him. Keith served in the military in the early 1970's. His favorite story was one of purchasing books in Germany and not of war. He was a logophile who enjoyed crossword puzzles and excelled at solving them. He was quietly intelligent and only those who knew Beasty well, knew how brilliant he really was. He was also an avid golfer and even made a Hole-in-One at Midland's Golf Course on hole number 2. He rooted for the Cardinals and rarely missed watching a game. Keith enjoyed working in his gardens and loved to see the wildflowers grow. He enjoyed the company of he and Ginger's many cats who kept his bed and his heart warm. He kept his bird feeders full and even made sure the local geese and raccoons had plenty to eat. His laugh was unmistakable and his presence will be sorely missed.

Keith worked for the Carbondale Post Office until retiring in 2004 during which time he made many life-long friends.

He and his first wife, Debbie Kohlbacher, brought into this world two children, Ryan and Holly, who meant the world to them both.

Keith married Ginger Smith in 1992 and together they made a formidable golf team and a shining example of two best friends and soul mates for almost 30 years.

Keith is preceded in death by his mother, Gloria Stokes and his father, Robert "Rip" Stokes.

He is survived by his wife Ginger Stokes; his son, Ryan Keith Stokes (wife, Krissy; his daughter, Holly Swoape (husband, Brent); his brother Robbie (wife, B.J.); his sister, Suzan Schwegman (husband, Jeff), his brother, Paul (wife, Michelle), his sister, Teresa McCarthy (husband, Tim) and four grandchildren; Ryder, Riley, Roxy and Jacob. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews; Robby (wife, Katie and their children, Henry, Amelia, and Madelynn), Carmen (husband, Anthony), Scott, Jack, Rory, Megan, and Collin.

Per Keith's wishes he was an organ donor and his contributions improved the lives of many others upon his passing. He is cremated and interred within an urn.

A Celebration of his Life, hosted by the family, will be Friday, October 22, 2021 at Jackson County Country Club at 1:00 pm, 5776 Country Club Road, Murphysboro IL 62966.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **22**. 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Jackson County Country Club
5776 Country Club Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Tribute Wall



“ *Keith Allen Stokes*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *I'm sorry for your loss. I knew Keith back when we lived on The corner of Hays and Cherry back in the 60s. Then met Keith again when I married my ex-husband, Jim Paul. Prayers for his brothers and sisters and for his children.*

Tanya Didds Paul - November 30, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ *Sending my condolences to Robbie Stokes and extended family. Keep Keith's legacy alive in your hearts, souls, and minds. Hugs! Heaven just got reblessed. Karen McNeely McMinn Carbondale IL*



Karen McNeely McMinn - October 30, 2021 at 06:12 PM



“ *Though it's been years since I had seen him. We sorta grew up together. We lived across the street as children & from kindergarten on up we were classmates & friends. Yes I also remember a time he showed me his snake collection! I know he will be missed! May peace surround his family & friends.*

Judy Heern Billiot - October 20, 2021 at 10:15 AM

KM

“ My deepest sympathy to Keith's family. I have good memories of Keith from many years ago as we used to end up sitting or standing in line together in school given our last names were close together in the alphabet (Stokes/Stoelzle) plus our parents were friends. Keith was funny, smart and kind. His smile will never fade.

Karen Midden - October 20, 2021 at 07:33 AM

BE

“ Much love for all of you Teresa, I'm sorry for your loss and jealous that beastly got to go to a great spot, built for kind hearted souls much like himself...smile, his troubles are over, he is in a great space 🥹🥹

beth - October 19, 2021 at 05:47 AM

PG

“ Keith was always so nice to my sons when we lived on Country Club Rd. He always was helping my son Ryan identify snakes when they weren't fishing in his backyard. As my son Ryan grew up he lived across the street from Keith and Ginger. What a great guy and friend. He will be missed by many! Keeping his family in my thoughts and prayers.

Patty Rogers Gibson

Patty Rogers Gibson - October 18, 2021 at 10:57 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Keith Allen Stokes.



October 18, 2021 at 08:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Keith Allen Stokes.*



October 18, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Keith Allen Stokes.*



October 18, 2021 at 04:21 PM