



Joseph L. Keith

November 24, 1942 - January 29, 2012

Joseph Leroy Keith, 69, of Rushville, passed away Sunday, January 29 in Rushville. He was born in Rushville, IN on November 24, 1942 to Chester and Lois (Sipes) Keith. He graduated from Rushville High School in 1961. During his four years of high school, Joe excelled in football, baseball, basketball, tennis, and track earning countless letters and setting multiple school records (some of which still stand). He attended High Point College in North Carolina on a basketball scholarship. However, a scout discovered him and took him to Minor League Baseball. Joe toured much of the U.S. while playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates farm league. He signed a major league contract with the NY Mets as a pitcher. Before that dream came to fruition, he broke his arm. Joe was a valuable employee for many years at Perfect Circle, Wickes Buildings, and Truster Buildings before he joined Farm Bureau Insurance, where he retired from after 20 years in December 2009.

Joe was actively involved in Council of clubs baseball, Rush County Men's Softball, Rushville Bowl, Mays basketball, and several traveling baseball teams. He was elected to the County Council, served on the Drainage Board, and recently resigned after 20 years on the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Joe was a lover of fishing and later in life became an avid golfer. He was a proud member of Antler Point Golf Course. Additionally, he was a member of Main St. Christian Church where he had served as Elder and Deacon. He was also a social member of the Knights of Columbus.

In March 1987 Joe married the love of his life, the woman who adored him.

Mary Jo (Gridley) Keith loved him beyond comprehension. Together, they created an amazing life and family.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by five daughters and one son: Michele Houston of Rushville, Melinda (Doug) Miller of Noblesville, Julie (Charlie) Miramonti of McCordsville, Melissa (Dan) Miller of Berea, OH, Mary (Adam) Dollarhide of Franklin, and Jeff (Nichole) Stagg of Virginia. He cherished his thirteen grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters: Brandon Crain; Grant Houston; Meredith, Mallory, and Max Miller; Kanyon Keith and Maleah Ging; Gabe, Mya, Nate, and Lyla Miller; Isabella and Cash Miramonti; Brynlee Crain and Stella Barnes. Joe is also survived by two sisters, Karolyn Emery of Pennsylvania and Iva (Terry) Hartwell of Waldron, one brother Tom (Deb) Keith of Southport and former spouse Carolyn (Gordon) Keith. Many nieces and nephews will also miss "Uncle McJoe". In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by a son, Michael Joseph Keith and a sister, Barbara Whitman, both in 2001.

Dr. Dennis Bowman will preside.

The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to the Michael J. Keith Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Rush County Community Foundation, Benesse Oncology Center in Shelby County, or Grundy Mountain Mission School in Virginia.

Services will be held at 1 PM Thursday, February 2 at Moster Mortuary, Rushville where friends are welcome to visit from 2 until 8 PM Wednesday, February 1. Burial will be in Rushville's East Hill Cemetery. Elks Lodge #1307 will provide services Wednesday evening.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph L. Keith*

January 28, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ *Floyd & Connie Cameron*



Floyd A. Cameron - February 01, 2012 at 04:12 PM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Joseph L. Keith.*



February 01, 2012 at 09:09 AM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Doug Miller - January 31, 2012 at 09:18 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Doug Miller - January 31, 2012 at 09:15 PM

DM

“ 4 files added to the album Joe



Doug Miller - January 31, 2012 at 09:12 PM

DM

“ 2 files added to the album Remembering Joe



Doug Miller - January 31, 2012 at 09:05 PM

DM

“ 2 files added to the album Remembering Joe



Doug Miller - January 31, 2012 at 09:04 PM

KM

“ *Kelly & Susie McClure lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Kelly & Susie McClure - January 31, 2012 at 06:29 PM

KM

Our hearts go out to you in your time of sorrow. Joe was such a good man. With deepest sympathy...Kelly & Susie McClure

Kelly & Susie McClure - January 31, 2012 at 06:40 PM

ME

“ *Marissa Emerson lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Marissa Emerson - January 31, 2012 at 05:07 PM

ME

Mary Jo, Jeff, Mary Carolyn, Melissa, and family: Joe was such a wonderful person—a good friend and neighbor and a great husband and father. My mom says she'd known him for at least 50 years. Our family is thinking of you and sending you love and support.

Love,

Marissa Emerson, a fellow West 10th Street Alum

Marissa Emerson - January 31, 2012 at 05:19 PM

RC

“ TO OUR DEAR MELISSA AND FAMILY, KNOW THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE IN OUR PRAYERS. MAY GOD BLESS YOU THRU THIS DIFFICULT TIME. I'M SURE YOUR DAD WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BUT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM AGAIN IN HEAVEN. WE LOVE YOU.

RON AND LOTTIE CONRAD - January 31, 2012 at 05:03 PM



“ *Debbie Manes lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Debbie Manes - January 31, 2012 at 02:52 PM

CH

“ *There are no words to express the loss of a loved one. My deepest sympathy goes out to all of you...Joe was definitely one of the good guys....He always had a smile on his face and time some conversation...He will be greatly missed....Keep them smiling up there Joe...R.I.P., Cathy*

Cathy Fordyce Hankins - January 31, 2012 at 02:49 PM

CH

“ *Cathy Fordyce Hankins lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Cathy Fordyce Hankins - January 31, 2012 at 02:43 PM

VN

“ *Joe, you will be missed. A great classmate. You were my first dance partner when Bud DeBaun taught us how to dance. Keep them laughing in heaven.*
Bill and Vickey Nunn

vickey nunn - January 31, 2012 at 02:27 PM

LJ

“ *Lori Cameron Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Lori Cameron Jacobs - January 31, 2012 at 01:19 PM

JB

“ *Mary Jo, so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*
Judy Brown



Judy Brown - January 31, 2012 at 12:16 PM

VS

“ *Varney Smith lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Varney Smith - January 31, 2012 at 11:42 AM

BH

“ *Bob, Tina & Courtney Hanak lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Bob, Tina & Courtney Hanak - January 31, 2012 at 11:35 AM

BH

Dan, Melissa and Family,

May the comfort of our loving savior bring you peace. As you are surrounded by family and friends cherish each moment, share all the great stories and memories of your dad. And, know that we are all praying for you and your family as you celebrate your dad's homecoming with his loving father in heaven.

Blessings always,

Bob, Tina & Courtney

Bob, Tina & Courtney Hanak - January 31, 2012 at 11:40 AM

RC

“ *Melissa and family, we all know words can never express enough to help in such a sorrowful hour as this. But yet, I am struck by the words that have preceded mine and I'm sure many more to follow; that these words flow from hearts yearning to weep with you as we have laughed with you in the past. The presence of these friends and their heart-felt words is a grand tribute to a loved man, and the values he has helped to pass on as your possession. Holly and I pray you, one and all, that you are blessed and encouraged, lifted-by hope, and carried by love in this difficult, life-changing hour. We love you.*

*God bless,
Pastor Rick, and Holly*

Rick Carrell - January 31, 2012 at 11:16 AM

JE

*Melissa and Dan - we are praying for you as you embark on this grief journey. Much grace and peace to your whole family!
Julia Ellifritt and kids*

Julia Ellifritt - January 31, 2012 at 12:00 PM

AS

“ *Andy & Robbie Saridakis lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Andy & Robbie Saridakis - January 31, 2012 at 11:15 AM

AS

Peace be with you and your family at this time of great sorrow. All of our prayers. Love Andy & Robbie Saridakis

Andy & Robbie Saridakis - January 31, 2012 at 11:18 AM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph L. Keith.*



January 31, 2012 at 10:19 AM



“ *Dale And Carolyn Sorber lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Dale and Carolyn Sorber - January 31, 2012 at 08:47 AM



“ *Our prayers for peace & comfort go out to all family members. We have been praying for Joe through our women's bible study. Melinda Miller (Joe's daughter) is a beautiful sister in Christ and we are so sorry for your loss. We love you Melinda and send our regards to your entire family.*

Your Sisters-in Christ

Pam Pariso - January 31, 2012 at 08:28 AM



“ *Mary Jo and the kids, I am so sorry to hear about Joe passing. He was a great man and father. He will be missed. love to you all. Margo Wall Mull.*



Margo Wall Mull - January 31, 2012 at 08:21 AM

DL

“ *Deanne (Beard) Land lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Deanne (Beard) Land - January 31, 2012 at 07:54 AM

SB

“ *thinking of you guys.. I'm so sorry for your loss.*



Sheila Browning - January 31, 2012 at 07:50 AM

DP

“ *Denny & Carole Peggs lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Denny & Carole Peggs - January 31, 2012 at 07:45 AM



“ *Paula Constant lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



paula constant - January 31, 2012 at 07:44 AM



“ *Paula Constant lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



paula constant - January 31, 2012 at 07:42 AM



“ *Teresa Asbury lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Teresa Asbury - January 31, 2012 at 07:22 AM



“ *Bruce & Shari Davis lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Bruce & Shari Davis - January 31, 2012 at 06:43 AM



“ *Dennis Brown lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



dennis brown - January 31, 2012 at 05:51 AM

DB

“ *joe was a wonderful guy for so many reasons. he will be missed dearly*

dennis brown - January 31, 2012 at 05:49 AM

CM

“ *Thoughts and prayers go out to you Mary and to your family. May the glory of God be with you through this difficult time.*

Cynthia Ray Myers

cynthia ray myers - January 30, 2012 at 10:55 PM

CM

“ *Cynthia Ray Myers lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



cynthia ray myers - January 30, 2012 at 10:52 PM

MK

“ *Michael Kilgore sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Michael Kilgore - January 30, 2012 at 09:59 PM

MK

Words don't describe how much I will miss Joe. He treated everyone like they were his best friend. I rode in the golf cart with Joe on Election Day, I suppose that could have been his last round. I sure wish I had known that then....or maybe not. He will be greatly missed by all of those that knew him.

Michael Kilgore - January 30, 2012 at 10:01 PM

LK

“ *Lisa Lloyd Kirchoff lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Lisa Lloyd Kirchoff - January 30, 2012 at 09:07 PM



“ *Mary Jo,*

While it has been many years... I wanted to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family for your loss. Joe was just an all around great guy. Keeping you in my thoughts during this time of remembrance.



Greg Raike - January 30, 2012 at 08:24 PM



“ *Doug Myra Bowles lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Doug Myra bowles - January 30, 2012 at 06:57 PM

KW

“ *May God bless and comfort you all!*

Krissi Williams - January 30, 2012 at 06:51 PM

KW

“ *Krissi Williams lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Krissi Williams - January 30, 2012 at 06:50 PM

DF

“ *Deb & Bryan Hummel Family lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Deb & Bryan Hummel Family - January 30, 2012 at 06:30 PM

JJ

“ *Jim And Lollie Jones lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Jim and Lollie Jones - January 30, 2012 at 06:19 PM



“ *Gina Kuhn lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Gina Kuhn - January 30, 2012 at 05:18 PM

DW

“ *Dana L Wilson lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Keith*



Dana L Wilson - January 30, 2012 at 03:30 PM

DW

Joe You really were one of the Great Guys like everyone said and you will be missed. Prayers go out to your Family.

Dana L Wilson - January 30, 2012 at 03:32 PM

TS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you Mary Jo and family. Joe was definately one of the GOOD GUYS and I will always remember the good times I had with Joe when we played in the Men's Baseball League several years ago. We were both "old men" trying to play with the young guys and we loved it. May you Rest in Peace Joe.*
Tom and Karla Skeen



Tom and Karla Skeen - January 30, 2012 at 02:51 PM

MH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
God Bless and may Joe rest in peace.
Mark and Mary Huffman*

Mary Huffman - January 30, 2012 at 10:48 AM

MH

“ *Mary Huffman lit a candle in memory of
Joseph L. Keith*



Mary Huffman - January 30, 2012 at 10:46 AM

PP

“ *I loved you Joe! Thank you so much for welcoming me into your life
and your family. Please know that the Lord is walking with you,
supporting and strengthening each one of you. Love to the whole
family!*

Pamela Peggs - January 30, 2012 at 07:56 AM

AR

“ *May you Rest in Peace, Joe! You will be
missed by many! To the Family, may the Lord
bless you with Peace!
Annette Dickson Ratliff*



Annette Ratliff - January 30, 2012 at 07:07 AM