



George Keith Kistler

OCT 27, 1936 - FEB 16, 2014



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FUNERAL CHAPEL & CREMATORY
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

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George Keith Kistler

OCT 27, 1936 - FEB 16, 2014

George Keith Kistler, 77, of Broadlands, passed away on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

He was born on October 27, 1936 in Waterville, Kansas to the late Luke and Pearl Kistler. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his grandson, Matthew Kistler.

Keith enlisted in the Navy in the spring of 1957, and graduated from Midland Lutheran College in 1958. During his 22 years in the Navy he served aboard a variety of ships including the USS Oriskany, USS Parsons, USS William H. Stanley, USS NOA, and served as the Captain of the USS Luce from May 18, 1974 until May 3, 1976.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1979, Keith worked at SAIC from October 1982 until his retirement in April 1999. Keith was a volunteer at the USO and Traveler's Aid at Dulles Airport. He was a seven year member of Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church. Keith enjoyed being with family and friends, reading about history and historical figures and was an avid and persistent golfer.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Ruth Elizabeth (Daubenspeck); sons, William Kistler of Brentwood, MD, and Derek Kistler and his wife, Winnie of Knoxville, TN. Keith was a friend and "Grandpa" to many young children.

A memorial service will be held at 7:00 PM on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church with Pastor Eric Peterson officiating. The family will be welcoming guests starting at 6:00 PM. Following the service, there will be a coffee and dessert fellowship. Inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, 43115 Waxpool Road, Broadlands, Virginia 20148.





Events


George Keith Kistler

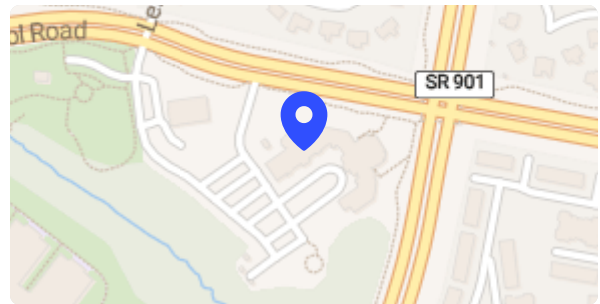
OCT 27, 1936 - FEB 16, 2014

Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, February 22, 2014

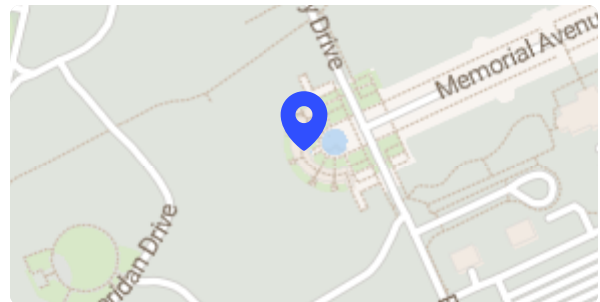
 7:00 PM ET

 **Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church**
43115 Waxpool Road, Ashburn VA



Cemetery Details

 **Arlington National Cemetery**
1 Memorial Ave. , Arlington VA 22211





Tribute Wall

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BM

Bruce McKenzie posted:

Dear Ruth & family, I am sorry to hear of Keith's passing. My thoughts & prayers are with you. Bruce McKenzie

February 25 at 2:57 AM

TK

T. Kelly posted:

My deepest condolences to the family. Losing a dear loved one can leave a very empty space in one's life. Please find strength, hope and comfort in the God of Comfort (1 Corinthians 1: 3,4). You can read or listen to the Bible online at www.jw.org

February 24 at 5:41 AM

DS

Doug Smith posted:

Dear Ruth, Sadly, I'll always remember the phone message you left on our answering machine on that Sunday morning, Feb. 16. Sandy & I both were stunned by the news of Keith's death. I will always treasure the Wednesdays that Keith and I spent, first at Bible study and breakfast at Bob Evans (7 a.m.), followed by a round of golf with the Oak Marr Men's League, followed by our adjournment to the American Legion for a cold beer and lunch and much conversation. On occasion, it was 2 p.m. by the time we left the Legion. You may not know that Keith was at least partly responsible for me taking up golf shortly after my retirement. I knew that he would leave Bible study by himself and drive to Oak Marr Recreation Center to hit balls at the driving range. One day I asked if I could join him. (I was still very tentative about whether I wanted to play golf or not). He said "sure." I did, and my golfing career began and my Wednesday mornings have been filled ever since. Keith was a good friend and I will always value the many memories that I have of him. Doug Smith

February 23 at 10:16 AM

WN

William C. Nelsen posted:

Dear Ruth, I was so sorry to learn of the sudden death of Keith. It was such a pleasure to visit with both of you last October, to get to know Keith and learn about his outstanding career, and to experience your kind hospitality. He was clearly one of the outstanding graduates of Midland College (now Midland University). Please know that your friends and fellow alumni at Midland will be thinking of you and praying for you and your family. May God grant you special strength, peace, and a giant measure of his love during these days. Bill Nelsen '63 Rev. Dr. William C. Nelsen University Minister for Adv. and Church Relations, Midland University, Fremont, NE

February 20 at 5:38 AM



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Ralph Rudkin posted:

Dear Ruth, We send you our love and deepest sympathy as we mourn the loss of Keith's life. Keith was a good man and a good friend and we shall miss him greatly. Our prayers are with you and your family at this time. Ralph and Kathryn Rudkin

February 20 at 5:34 AM



Kevin Hilyard posted:

Dear All, I love my uncle Keith and I'm so sorry he's gone. His name was always synonymous with integrity and character in my mind. I always thought he had a wry wit and admired his intellect. I enjoyed our conversations thoroughly whenever we had the chance. I'll never forget spending Christmas with Keith and Ruth and family immediately after my father's passing. They made a devastating time a whole lot better and they always thought of our family around the holidays, which just goes to show how loving and thoughtful he was, and Ruth is. I know he got a big kick out of me when I was a child saying that I was full for food, but my dessert compartment could use a little more. He will be greatly missed. Love, Kevin

February 19 at 1:45 PM



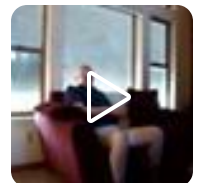
Kevin Hilyard shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.



February 19 at 1:35 PM



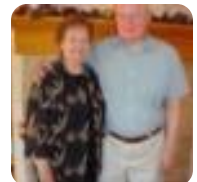
Kevin Hilyard shared a video to the **Uncle Keith** album.



February 19 at 1:31 PM



Kevin Hilyard shared a photo to the **Uncle Keith** album.



February 19 at 1:19 PM



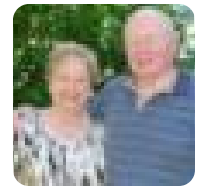
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February 19 at 1:14 PM



James Casad November 23 at 7:03 PM

I served under this fine man while I was stationed aboard the USS LUCE DLG 7 / DDG 38. He earned my absolute respect in many ways. RIP my Captain. God bless you!



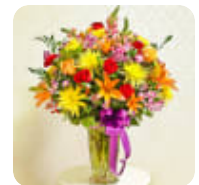
Hank Frydel posted:

Dear Ruth, I just wanted to say that I'm very sorry to hear about Keith. My thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family. As always, those of us who served ashore in Vietnam will always be appreciative of that supporting naval gunfire coming from those Navy ships in the South China Sea. Keith had an important role in that during his duty assignments out there. For that we will forever be grateful. In sympathy, Hank Frydel

February 19 at 5:59 AM



Anonymous sent a Multicolor Bright Large Sympathy Vase Arrangement to the Kistler family.



February 18 at 5:43 PM



Anonymous sent a Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy to the Kistler family.



February 18 at 3:49 PM



Tribute Wall

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BY

Barbara Yarbrough posted:

Dear Ruth, Ed and I send our love and prayers to you and your family. We will miss Keith and his caring, servant heart. When my father was in hospice before Christmas, the caregiver gave us a wonderful image to think about, which is fitting for Keith with his Navy career. I can't remember the person that wrote it, but this is my paraphrase. As we think of our loved one on a ship that is sailing out of our port, the ship appears to get smaller to us, until it is out of sight. But on the other side, the ship is growing larger, until our loved one is greeted at the heavenly port by Christ's loving embrace. May your memories of Keith bring you joy, and may the promise of Easter bring you peace. Barb and Ed Yarbrough

February 18 at 12:44 PM

GM

Glenn Mays posted:

Dear Ruth and Family, As on ships that pass in the night, we cruised through 49 years of friendship. Keith was a marvelous and unique man. It is impossible to condense my thoughts of such a man into a few characteristics, but my memories seem to drift back to his sense of humor and his selfless concern for others. The first is exemplified by an occasion in the Electrical Engineering lab at Naval Postgraduate School. Keith discovered his radar pulse in his pulse-forming network was perfect if he kept his hand on the cart holding the test equipment to measure the pulse parameters. After letting all the other students know of his plan, Keith called over the pretentious instructor to grade his circuit. He arrived with his fur-lined o-scope hood and began his examination. After he finished his evaluation, the instructor announced Keith's work was perfect and left to evaluate others' work. Keith removed his hand to reveal the worst square pulse any radar ever transmitted to the laughter of all his classmates. His empathy for others was demonstrated fully to me by his remarks at his change of command ceremony when he left USS Luce. He focused completely on the ship and crew and encouraged them in their future duties. He left himself out of his remarks and gave all credit to others for the ship's successes. Keith was a dear friend to me as well as a complete example of John Paul Jones's definition of a naval officer. He will be greatly missed by me and many others. Glenn Mays

February 18 at 10:41 AM

BI

Bill shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.



February 18 at 8:37 AM



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February 18 at 8:37 AM

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February 18 at 8:36 AM

BI

Bill shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.



February 18 at 8:34 AM

SH

Sally Harvey posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. This is a loss for the Travelers Aid family as well. Keith was very special. He touched the lives of many people. Travelers Aid at Dulles will not be the same. We will miss him everyday. Sally Harvey, Program Manager

February 18 at 6:09 AM

JM

John Mason posted:

We are so saddened by Keith's passing and for Cousin Ruth's and the family's loss. Keith, always kind, generous, humorous and with a bigger-than-life soul, a great father and grandfather, we will miss you. He was always so comfortable in our extended family. May he rest in Peace. Love to you, Ruth. Nancy and John Mason

February 17 at 5:14 PM



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KT

Kristin And Peter Tufan posted:

Peter and I will miss Keith's friendliness and welcoming smile every Sunday at church. Our prayers are with Ruth and family as we grieve this loss, but also celebrate his life. We thank the Lord for Keith's life and know that he is smiling over us.

February 17 at 3:39 PM

JS

Jim And Pat Sheehy posted:

Pat and I wish to express our heartfelt loss to Ruth and the family. It was an honor and a privilege to know Keith and he made a difference in the lives of all he touched.

February 17 at 1:12 PM

MD

Martie Dunnnett posted:

Our love and prayers go to Ruth and her family. We know Keith as a fellow church member at Our Savior's Way and as a friend. Stuart will miss his golf buddy. We have wonderful memories of Keith, he always had a smile and a hug. Love, Stuart and Martie

February 17 at 11:42 AM



Media

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February 19 at 1:35 PM



Keith's Hometown



Media

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February 19 at 1:31 PM



SCAN TO WATCH



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Sailor Keith... 1957



Media

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Keith in a hat... 1950



Media

George Keith Kistler

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Keith and friend... 1938



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring George by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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