



James Charles Keller

September 15, 1950 - April 7, 2021

James Charles Keller, age 70, of Bourbonnais passed away on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at his home. He was born in Bloomington, the son of Robert & Irene (Behrens) Keller.

Jim graduated from Kankakee Westview High School and Illinois State University, with a degree in political science. After a career in packaging sales, he began the Cupola House Tree Farm in Bourbonnais in 1989. There he created a place very meaningful to him, his family, and at Christmas time, to many others. Jim was thrilled to keep the farm in his family and have his son continue the Christmas tree farming tradition. After transitioning into semi-retirement, Jim built an actual castle keep in the Norman style with about 65 tons of stone from his farm.

Jim was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kankakee, where he held many leadership positions. He was a 20 year direct-patient volunteer for Hospice of Kankakee Valley, now known as Uplifted Care. He enjoyed growing a variety of things at his farm, reading, sailing, and traveling.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Christie (Troup) Keller; one daughter and son-in-law, Laura & Andy Wheeler of Kankakee; one son and daughter-in-law, Ben & Betsy Keller of Bourbonnais; four grandchildren, Evan Regnier, Jackson Wheeler, William Keller, and Leah Keller; and two sisters, Marilyn Rittmeyer of Arlington Heights and Barbara Dilbeck of Dallas, TX.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A celebration of life will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of the 11 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, June 26, 2021

at St. Paul Episcopal Church in Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 298 S. Harrison Ave. Kankakee, IL 60901.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Episcopal Church
298 S. Harrison Avenue
Kankakee, IL
St. Paul Episcopal Church
<http://www.episcopalkankakee.org/>

Memorial Service

JUN **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Episcopal Church
298 S. Harrison Avenue
Kankakee, IL
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<http://www.episcopalkankakee.org/>

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Jim's sense of humor was such a big part of who he was. But his family was his pride and joy. He loved his grandchildren so much. I enjoyed talking to him about his time at his Christmas tree farm also. I has the honor of being one of his nurses the past 5 Years. He will be truly missed. My condolences and prayers for Chris and his family.

Brenda McLaren - April 15, 2021 at 09:31 PM

CK

Oh, Brenda, how kind. Jim always especially enjoyed having you be his nurse and I did too. I'm glad you appreciated his humor and his love of family. I hope you are now fully enjoying your grandchildren.

Chris Keller - April 15, 2021 at 10:01 PM

JG

“ When we spent time with Chris & Jim, he was always a source of entertainment. His sense of humor was often surprising (what? Really?! 😂), but always upbeat. I don't think I ever saw him angry or grouchy...maybe I was lucky, but he was so loving I'm sure he couldn't stay down for long. We miss him...❤️ Condolences and wishes for wonderful memories to Jim's family. Janet & Richard Glidden

Janet Glidden - April 12, 2021 at 05:29 PM

CK

His attitude was always positive. Thank you.

Chris Keller - April 12, 2021 at 09:33 PM

AL

“ I will always remember Jim’s wit and humor. He seemed to stay the same through life’s trials. During an especially low time lime in my life ,Jim sent a spiritual to me reminding me not to worry about tomorrow because God was already there. I revisit that reminder often. Jim will be missed. Al & Pat Lawrence

Al Lawrence - April 11, 2021 at 11:53 AM

CK

Thank you, Al.

Chris Keller - April 12, 2021 at 09:34 PM

MM

“ Deepest condolences to Christie and family. Christie and Jim have been wonderful friends to our daughter for many years. We are so sorry for your loss
Mary and Tom Maass



Mary & Tom Maass - April 10, 2021 at 02:13 PM

CK

Janet has been a constant source of support and love for me for so long. What an amazing daughter you have.

Chris Keller - April 10, 2021 at 09:42 PM

JF

“ Rest in peace dear friend



Janet Foltz - April 10, 2021 at 09:04 AM

CK

I know he will. And you are the dearest friend.

Chris Keller - April 10, 2021 at 09:47 PM

EC

“ *Elayne Coffie lit a candle in memory of James Charles Keller*



Elayne Coffie - April 10, 2021 at 02:03 AM

CK

How kind of you. Thanks

Chris Keller - April 10, 2021 at 09:44 PM



“ *Sending condolences from our family to yours. Mac and Mary Jane Cleeland Manteno, Il.*

Mary Jane Cleeland - April 09, 2021 at 09:14 PM

CK

Thank you

Chris Keller - April 10, 2021 at 09:44 PM



“ *Bob Schneider lit a candle in memory of James Charles Keller*



Bob Schneider - April 09, 2021 at 09:34 AM

RM

“ So many great memories of Jim in Indian Guides. He was always upbeat, with a great sense of humor. A wonderful human being. He will be missed.

Rick Mackin - April 08, 2021 at 05:51 PM

CK

Jim loved being part of Indian Guides and Indian Princesses. Thanks for your kind words.

Chris Keller - April 10, 2021 at 09:44 PM

DM

“ I enjoyed cleaning their home back in the late 90's. Jim was always so nice. He was a very uplifting guy and so knowledgeable about his Christmas 🎄 tree 🎄 farm.

I was so sad to hear of his passing. He will be missed.

With deepest sympathy, Diane Morrison-Keller



Diane Morrison-Keller - April 08, 2021 at 05:04 PM

CK

What kind words. Thank you so much.

Chris Keller - April 10, 2021 at 09:45 PM

JS

“ My condolences to Jim's wife and kids and extended family. Jim was a great person and helped his customers out immensely. He will be missed.

John Schultz - April 08, 2021 at 04:51 PM



Thank you, John.

Chris Keller - April 10, 2021 at 09:46 PM