



Keith Bixler

November 8, 1941 - December 26, 2017

ADRIAN – Keith Bixler, 76, of Adrian passed away Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at Magnumcare in Adrian, under the care of Hospice of Lenawee.

Keith was born November 8, 1941 to Dr. Lorin and Margaret (Frye) Bixler in Cambridge, OH. He graduated from Muskingum College in 1963 with a BA Degree. He did pursue graduate work. Keith was in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1964 until 1970. Keith entered YMCA work in 1963 and achieved Sr. Director status while he was the Youth Director of the Brooklyn Branch of the Cleveland YMCA and then Branch Director of the Lee Branch of the Pittsfield, Massachusetts YMCA.

When he was the Executive Director of the Galion, Ohio YMCA, he met Luana, and they were married in October, 1973. In August, 1975 the couple, along with their two children, moved to Adrian. Keith served as Executive Director of the Lenawee County YMCA until his retirement on January 1, 1997.

During retirement he operated a shuttle service to Detroit Metro Airport, Toledo Express Airport and the Jackson train station for seventeen years. Keith was a member of the Noon Rotary Club for 26 years and served six years on the board of the organization. He was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Adrian.

In addition to his wife of 44 years, Luana Bixler, he leaves behind his son Bill (Jennie) Bixler of Utica, OH and daughter, Amy (Brian) Barnes of Brooklyn; four grandchildren, Billy (Shelbi) Bixler, Jaimie Gallant, Sam Bixler and Jorrian Barnes; and his great-grandson, Will Bixler. Keith is also survived by a brother, V. Ned (Shirley) Bixler of Delaware, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a younger brother, Joel, and a older sister, Marilyn.

At Keith's request, cremation has taken place and there will be no services. His ashes will be placed in the mountains around Gatlinburg, TN near the Pigeon Forge River, one of his favorite places to visit.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian where online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com. The family suggests memorial contributions in Keith's name be made to Hospice of Lenawee, 1903 Wolf Creek Highway, Adrian, MI 49221 or the Adrian First United Methodist Church, 1245 W. Maple Ave., Adrian, MI 49221.

Tribute Wall



“ *Keith Bixler*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories*



Amy Barnes - January 22, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ *My lovely Ohio state fan..probably the only one I could get along with. Seems how we always argued about OSU & Michigan. I will never forget the biggest grin he could have when he seen me walk down the hallway or enter his room..telling him it was time to get up. A man that I growed with for a year an half. I can still hear him yelling my name, Corbetttt...or Cortkneessss. All because I told him we had to go olay bingo before going to take a nap. I miss him very much, but I do know he is in a better place an not in any pain. Smiling down on each of us. His wife Luana an him I will always hold a special place in my heart. They have impacted my life major an Im very blessed to have such angels in my life. Miss you bud!!*

Cortney, Your fav CNA 😊

Cortney Elliott - January 19, 2018 at 11:25 PM

AB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Amy Barnes - January 11, 2018 at 10:53 PM

JB

“ *I have so many good memories of spending time with my grandpa. When I was a little girl, he would take me to the Lenawee County library to watch puppet shows and help me pick out books. I would sit on his lap and he would read books to me up in the Lion's Den (gpa's man cave). As I have gotten older, I realize what a positive role model grandpa was in my life. He will always be in my heart.*

Jorrian Barnes - January 11, 2018 at 10:29 PM

AB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Amy Barnes - January 11, 2018 at 09:47 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Jorrian Barnes - January 11, 2018 at 09:36 PM

BB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Brian Barnes - January 10, 2018 at 11:46 PM

BB

“ *Keith was an admiral man and father in-law. We developed a special bond which I am so very grateful for. I will never forget one day this past summer Amy, Jorri and I came to visit at Magnum as we did most Sunday afternoons. It was a sunny, beautiful day so we decided to bring the jeep, top and doors off. As usual, we took Keith outside for a walk after lunch. While in the parking lot, I showed him the jeep and asked what he thought and would he like to go for a ride? With a big smile on his face he replied, yes. I helped him into the front seat and away we went. Although it was a short cruise, Keith was clearly content. A part of me wanted to just keep driving and take him far away. I didn't know exactly where but imagined escaping to a place of peace and freedom. I believe Keith is now in that eternal place.*

Brian Barnes - January 10, 2018 at 11:31 PM



“ Keith was my father-in law for many years. He welcomed me into this family as I was his own. He did not miss anything my kids had going on. He and his wife drove to SC to watch there grandson (Billy) graduate bootcamp from the United States Marine Corps. He and Luana have come to watch there youngest grandson (Sammy) compete in the Transplant games. There drove many different days and weekends to spend special events with my boys, here in Ohio. He was a great companion to my mother-in law. He will be greatly missed by the whole family. Bill and I are thankful for his loving, teaching and caring ways he has shown our family. We know he only got to see his great grandson Will a few times before he passed but he always lit up with joy when he seen him or pictures of him.

He will be greatly missed by us here in Ohio

Bill and Jennie

Jennie Galilei Bixler - January 06, 2018 at 05:45 PM

JA

“ My Grandfather was more like a father to me. He helped raise me to be the young woman I am today. He taught me to be strong and independent just like he always was. It's hard to put into a paragraph all the great memories of vacations, cruising on the pontoon, and bedtime stories he would tell me. He was a great grandpa and is genuinely missed.

Jaimie - January 04, 2018 at 07:01 PM

JJ

“ To sum up a man’s life is a daunting task, and so I have decided to focus on a single aspect of Keith Bixler’s life. Keith was my brother-in-law for 38 years, so one could say this is a longitudinal reflection rather than a snapshot. When I think of Keith Bixler, I think of service. Keith led a life of service to his church, his community, and his family, but I knew him best as a member of his family.

When I first met Keith, and his wife Luana, I was not even a member of the family, but he made me feel like one. It seemed he knew what it was to make inroads to the McClarren family, and he wanted to help the “newbie.” He and Luana took us to dinner and never missed a chance to make me feel welcome, including inviting Julie and me to travel with them.

What I know about traveling, I learned from Keith Bixler. Keith made certain that the people who traveled with him traveled first-class despite the many, many limits put on him by a brother-in-law who desired all the comforts, a sister-in-law who did not know what the sunny side of 9:00 AM looked like, and a wife who always had an eye for a bargain. I learned from Keith that you needed to stop every two hours, to keep your eye on your passengers as well as the road, and always to stop before people got “hangry.”

Keith continued to look out for me as the years progressed. Even toward the end of his life, when fate raised its powerful hand against him, his response was one of stoic acceptance mixed with never-ending grit. During one of my last visits with Keith and Luana, he and I went for a walk to purchase a lottery ticket. He was by no means a gambler, but he had a habit of walking to the local store to get a ticket. During that walk, once again, he was the leader, showing me where the store was and what to look out for. His usually fast gait had slowed quite a bit, but he was glad to help me get my 10,000 steps in, to support the Michigan economy, and to do as much as he could for as long as he could. Keith Bixler was a man of service to the end, and I feel certain he is spending his first month in Heaven trying to figure out how best to serve God.

Joe Janisch - January 02, 2018 at 08:38 PM

AB

“ In my eyes dad was more than a dedicated, dependable father or even a good man. He will be eternally a superhero, without cape or magic powers yet matched by no one. The illness that succeeded in slowly taking his motor skills, daily functioning capabilities and health did not triumph in taking his soul. Even up until his final days on this earth, I watched a righteous soldier marching for all that is moral and just. With a smile on my face and my chin held high, I proudly proclaim...my dad was Keith Bixler.

One memory I will share was from the 70's when we lived in the Airport section of Adrian. Bill and I went out trick or treating on Halloween night. We were finally heading home, pillowcases chocked full of candy when some delinquent teenager, pantyhose over his head, approached my brother then stole his bag right out of his hands. Of course, we both ran home, Bill crying and me secretly laughing to tell mom and dad. After what seemed like hours returned dad, out of breath, limping in grass stained jeans from running around the neighborhood trying to catch the candy caper. P.S. I found it not so funny when I had to split my bag of candy with Bill. This is one tiny snip-it of my hero, my dad.

Amy Bixler Barnes

Amy (Bixler) Barnes - January 02, 2018 at 06:50 PM

JJ

“ I feel very fortunate to have had Keith as a brother-in-law for over 40 years. He and my sister, Luana, were a great match. My best memories of Keith were the times when my husband (Joe), Luana, Keith, and I traveled together. We had some real adventures, including driving through tornado conditions and talking too loud in a hot tub. Keith would be very precise with the day's itinerary. You could find him each morning of our travels looking at a map opened on the hood of the car to review the route. He had already cleaned the windshield with his ever-present Windex and paper towels. I didn't get to see him often in the last couple of years but when I did I was saddened to see his decline from the vital, very fast walker (!) to a person who could do little for himself. I will miss him.

Julie Janisch

Julie Janisch - December 31, 2017 at 09:51 PM

SI

“ Keith is my brother-in-law and I couldn't have asked for a better one. He was generous, smart, and always had a smile on his face. Back in the day, he had a Chevy Belair car that he wanted to sell and he gave me a special deal on it so that my first car would be a reliable one. He was very good at business and finance and helped me set up my first money market account. He and my sister Luana had a very good marriage and he was a great Dad to Bill and Amy. We will miss him very much, but are thankful that all of his pain and suffering are now over.

Lanny, you were the joy of Keith's life and a great caretaker until the end. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in the coming weeks.

Love,

Sue and Gary Irwin

Sue and Gary Irwin - December 31, 2017 at 03:56 PM

MW

“ As Keith became more challenged with his health, Luana was a devoted wife. She slipped out of choir practice each Sunday before the service to pick Keith up and bring him back to church. She would rejoin the choir and at the end of the service, they would go home together. Once he was at Magnumcare, I visited him on behalf of the United Methodist women. Ever the gracious man, he was appreciative of the goodie bag and we enjoyed a brief visit. Luana kept us posted- how he was doing and sometimes mentioned a new challenge. From my observations, this was a couple who shared many good years and even though the last few weren't easy, the love they shared was so evident. Sending hugs, condolences and prayers to this family as they grieve. May they find comfort in the happy memories they shared.

Marcia and Bill Wright

Marcia Wright - December 30, 2017 at 07:53 PM

JT

“ Dear Luann and family,
I remember Keith well, his time at YMCA and was grateful for his driving assistance to the airport. He was a kind, informative and a gracious man and I'm sure he will be missed. It is difficult to lose a loved one and even more so during the holidays. I hope your memories of him are comforting and keep him alive in your thoughts. Sincerely, Jeanne Tarchalski

jeanne tarchalski - December 30, 2017 at 11:07 AM

BO

“ I remember my “big sister” getting married to a very handsome guy named Keith. I knew there was something very special about him, as he took on the responsibilities of two children not his own. He was hard-working; committed; upright. He was very involved in whatever community he served in. He had the best and most unique laugh I ever heard, he was a great family man - involved, and always willing to dole out good advice (especially financial advice). It was so very difficult to see him deal with the horrible disease that robbed him of his strong, active body. I’m thankful he is at peace now. I’m thankful for my sister who showed amazing grace and courage throughout his ordeal. Keith, run free. See you on the other side someday.

Bonnie - December 29, 2017 at 02:09 PM

RO

“ I am so sorry for your loss

Robin Ruddick

robin - December 28, 2017 at 09:42 PM

MK

“ Luana, I'll always remember the fun years you were in our church congregation especially sitting next to each other in choir:). I've missed you and Keith and am so sorry to hear of his passing. May you find comfort in your memories and the knowledge that friends care about you. Hugs, Maggie

Maggie Keevan - December 28, 2017 at 09:12 AM

DG

“ Ann and I send our sincerest condolences knowing that you are at peace with Keith's passing to a pain free life in Christ.

David and Ann Guldin - December 27, 2017 at 04:09 PM

LE

“ Keith was a very caring and wonderful person. I am grateful to him and Luana for their friendship and kindness. He will be missed but remembered in wonderful memories! Linda Rose Etter

Linda Rose Etter - December 27, 2017 at 02:09 PM