

PAUL ELRICK KEITH



Paul Elrick Keith, 88, of Arlington, Texas, passed away on December 31, 2023. Born on February 21, 1935, in Pittsburgh, PA, he was the son of Lewis C. Keith and Alma C. Keith. Paul was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Lew, Dave, and John; his sisters Nancy Watson, Velma (Suzie) Duvall, Rebecca Sankey; and his son, Douglas Paul Keith.

Paul proudly served in the United States Marine Corp (USMC) as an Airplane Mechanic. After his military service, he pursued a career in plumbing, becoming the youngest student to pass the Journeyman's Plumbing Test in Pittsburgh. He soon became a Master Plumber and owned various plumbing and heating businesses, including DIAMOND K PLUMBING "Plumbing with Enthusiasm!" in Arlington, Texas until he retired.

Paul had an early fascination with aviation that stayed with him his entire life. He began early, snooping around the Westmoreland County Airport, eventually being invited to help with things around the property. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol and loved going to air shows around the country with his grandson, Paul to see the latest in aircraft innovations. Paul had a deep curiosity of life in general; truly a childlike wonder. He loved to travel the world, learning about other people, cultures, religions and politics. A place closer to home that intrigued and fascinated Paul was Mt. Shasta in California, which seemed to quench a spiritual thirst with each visit. Wherever he traveled, there was sure to be a great story to tell about the experience.

A man of deep convictions, Paul sought knowledge and understanding in his study of religious, philosophical, and metaphysical books. He had a love for Mariachi music and classic country music, enjoyed looking for treasures and bargains at flea markets and antique stores and sitting around the dining room table shootin' the breeze in one lively discussion of one kind or another.

Those that knew Paul knew of the passion and enthusiasm that he embodied in his approach to life, whether it was in his thirst for knowledge or curiosity for deeper understanding, or his excitement to light fires of inspiration in others or in his impenetrable stance on behalf of the underdog. They will miss the conversations that lasted deep into the night, the amazing death defying stories and his expectation that he would persevere through any situation he would encounter because of his belief in God. "I AM THAT I AM," he would say, and for him, that said it all. He was one of the most interesting people that one could meet and no one left a conversation without feeling this sublime strength of character.

There was no stereotype or caricature that fit. He was not solely a father, grandfather, brother, Plumber, Marine, Spiritual Guide, architect, engineer, historian, art enthusiast or storyteller. He was all those things and more. He carried a life force and viewpoint into every room he entered. His faith was unquestionable and the compass that guided him through this world was set at True North.

Paul Elrick Keith was truly one of a kind; a combination of brilliance, kindness, passion and wonder. He was a hardworking man with an indomitable spirit and powerful faith, willing to share his talents, his time, his treasures with anyone who crossed his path. "Well done good and faithful servant." Yes, very well done!

Paul is survived by his daughter, Laurie Yarborough (Steve); his son Lionel Glenn Keith (Patty); stepdaughter, Paula Hill; grandchildren Paul Yarborough, Matt Keith, Wesley Yarborough, Stephen Keith, Jake Keith, Eleanor Yarborough, William Luke Keith; and great-grandson, Solomon Yarborough, as well as many nieces and nephews.

He will be remembered with gratitude and love by all those whose lives he touched. He will be dearly missed by his family and close friends, especially Federico and Gloria Munoz and Pastor Richard Jones.

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