



William C. Keller

February 16, 1928 - September 6, 2014

William "Bill" C. Keller, 86, Bismarck, died September 6, 2014, at his home, from cancer. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at 12:00 Noon at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck with Rev. Msgr. Thomas Richter officiating. Burial will be at the ND Veterans Cemetery. Visitation will be on Monday from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit where a rosary/vigil service will begin at 7:00 PM. Visitation will continue on Tuesday one hour prior to the service at the church. William was born on February 16, 1928, in Strasburg, ND, the son of Peter and Monica Richter Keller. He grew up and attended school in Strasburg and graduated from Strasburg High School where he was a member of the basketball team. Following high school, he taught for one year in Strasburg. He then attended the seminary in Montana for a brief time until a priest instructed him that "many are called but few are chosen, so go forth and multiply", which he did! On September 29, 1949, William married Mabel Melech at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. They made their home in Bismarck. William served in the ND National Guard and was called to active duty during the Korean Conflict. Upon his return from the Guards, he began his career at the Mandan Refinery for Amoco Oil from 1954 until his retirement in 1988. Following his retirement, he and Mabel spent many winters in Arizona. William was also employed by Challenger Industries from 2002 – present and was even named 'Employee of the Month'. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, water volleyball, puzzles, pinochle, and chess. He was active with Boy Scouts as a leader and was

proud of his Eagle Scouts. He was also active with the Cathedral Choir, the Cursillo and the Knights of Columbus. William was an innovator; there wasn't a problem he couldn't solve. His favorite quote was "work smarter, not harder." William's greatest enjoyment in life was following his grandkids sporting events, which fell in line with his priority of family first. William is survived by his wife, Mabel of Bismarck; his daughters, Diana Don Roloff of Bismarck, Susan Mac Condry of Bismarck, and Nancy Dave Reis of Bismarck; his sons, Charles Roberta Keller of Bismarck, Dennis Grayce Keller of Moneta, Wyoming, John Jeanette Keller of Bismarck, Kenneth Marilyn Keller of Bismarck, and Glen Carla Keller of Fargo; his grandchildren, Jason Kristy Roloff, Jon Tracy Roloff, Joel Becky Roloff, Jarred Kendra Roloff, RaShelle Nate Bren, Matthew Condry, Shauna Condry, Evan Condry, Erik Reis, Kyle Reis, Kasi Reis, Shannon Jarrod Becker, Sabrina Art Renner, Jessica Keller, Dennis Keller, William Jennifer Keller, Nicole Scott Stoeckel, Michael Jess Keller, Christopher Keller, Alisha Bryon Hoag, Brandon Adrienne Keller, Craig Keller, Sarah Keller, Kari Keller, Kevin Keller, Gene Keller, April Christian John Bernabucci, and Tallen Keller; 32 great-grandchildren; one brother, James Bonnie Keller of Bismarck; and one sister, Mary Dick Bruce of Cincinnati, OH. He was preceded in death by his parents; one stillborn daughter, Mary; three brothers, Andrew, George, and Roger; and two sisters, Johanna Fernandez and Genevieve Heck. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Shriner's Hospital for Children, 3229 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229 or the El Zagal Shrine, 1429 3rd St. North, Fargo, ND 58102. One of William's grandsons was provided medical care at their hospital in Cincinnati.

Tribute Wall

RW

“ Dear Keller Family, our thoughts and prayers have been with you during this time and will continue to be as you greive the loss of your Spouse, Father, and Grandfather. Having not known William it is a blessing to see the impact he had on his children and grandchildren which evidences a strong faith leader for his family and those around him. May God comfort you in His promises to always be with you in good times and in bad. John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." May peace be with you all. Tim and Rachel Walling

Rachel Walling - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Dear Keller Family, our thoughts and prayers have been with you during this time and will continue to be as you greive the loss of your Spouse, Father, and Grandfather. Having not known William it is a blessing to see the impact he had on his children and grandchildren which evidences a strong faith leader for his family and those around him. May God comfort you in His promises to always be with you in good times and in bad. John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." May peace be with you all. Tim and Rachel Walling

Rachel Walling - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ So sorry to hear about Dad/Grandpa, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. We have great memories from seeing him on the soccer field every weekend, he was always so supportive of all the grandkids.

Mel & Karen Fischer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ So sorry to hear about Dad/Grandpa, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. We have great memories from seeing him on the soccer field every weekend, he was always so supportive of all the grandkids.

Mel & Karen Fischer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Mabel, Ken, Marilyn and the entire family- our condolences to you. Willie was a great man and father. Your family was very fortunately to have such a wonderful man in their lives. Our prayers are with you.

Mike and Kim Rambur family - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Mabel, Ken, Marilyn and the entire family- our condolences to you. Willie was a great man and father. Your family was very fortunately to have such a wonderful man in their lives. Our prayers are with you.

Mike and Kim Rambur family - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Chuck, Sabrina and family - You continue to be in our thoughts during the loss of your dad and grandpa. Hold the memories tight and know that he is forever with you! Our deepest sympathy - LeeRon, Angela, Jonathan and Marianne Plante

Angela Plante - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Chuck, Sabrina and family - You continue to be in our thoughts during the loss of your dad and grandpa. Hold the memories tight and know that he is forever with you! Our deepest sympathy - LeeRon, Angela, Jonathan and Marianne Plante

Angela Plante - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken, Marilyn, and the entire Keller family.

Darold Burch - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ My dear sweet wonderful Mabel, At a time like this there are no right words to say. I am so very sorry and my heart aches for you! This is for you...The Angels gathered near your bed so very close to you. For they knew the pain and suffering that you were going through. I thought about so many things, as I held tightly to your hand. Oh, how I wished that you were strong and happy once again. But your eyes were looking homeward to that place beyond the sky. Where Jesus held His outstretched arms, it was time to say goodbye. I struggled with my selfish thoughts, for I wanted you to stay. So we could walk and talk again, like we did - just yesterday. But Jesus knew the answer, and I knew He loved you so. So I gave to you life's greatest gift, the gift of letting go. May God & all the angels gather round you and carry you through this time of grief! All my thoughts, prayers, hugs, kisses and love all with you!

Deb Radke - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ My dear sweet wonderful Mabel, At a time like this there are no right words to say. I am so very sorry and my heart aches for you! This is for you...The Angels gathered near your bed so very close to you. For they knew the pain and suffering that you were going through. I thought about so many things, as I held tightly to your hand. Oh, how I wished that you were strong and happy once again. But your eyes were looking homeward to that place beyond the sky. Where Jesus held His outstretched arms, it was time to say goodbye. I struggled with my selfish thoughts, for I wanted you to stay. So we could walk and talk again, like we did - just yesterday. But Jesus knew the answer, and I knew He loved you so. So I gave to you life's greatest gift, the gift of letting go. May God & all the angels gather round you and carry you through this time of grief! All my thoughts, prayers , hugs, kisses and love all with you!

Deb Radke - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ To Ken, Marilyn And the whole Keller clan... There are no words that can be said but I did find a beautiful poem that I think Willys name is all over it:He is GoneYou can shed tears that he is gone, Or you can smile because he lived, You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back, Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see him Or you can be full of the love that you shared, You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember him and only that he is gone Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on, You can cry and close your mind be empty and turn your back, Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on. All my thoughts, prayers, hugs & love are with you all! I am here for any & all of you!

Deb Radke - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ To Ken, Marilyn And the whole Keller clan... There are no words that can be said but I did find a beautiful poem that I think Willys name is all over it:He is GoneYou can shed tears that he is gone, Or you can smile because he lived, You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back, Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see him Or you can be full of the love that you shared, You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember him and only that he is gone Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on, You can cry and close your mind be empty and turn your back, Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.All my thoughts, prayers, hugs & love are with you all! I am here for any & all of you!

Deb Radke - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Keller family. I'll always remember the cable spool picnic table my dad and Willy made. And the beers they shared on the back patio.

Kathleen Spilman - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ To Ken and the Keller Family. We are sorry for the loss of your Father/Grandfather. May the God of all peace be your comforter during this season of loss. Our thoughts and prayers are for you.
Rodney & Terri

Rodney Hogle - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ To Ken and the Keller Family. We are sorry for the loss of your Father/Grandfather. May the God of all peace be your comforter during this season of loss. Our thoughts and prayers are for you.
Rodney & Terri

Rodney Hogle - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ to Mabel and the Keller family, My prayerful sympathy!! I was Kenny's teach at Cathedral Grade School, for first or second grade. I enjoyed him as a student and I looked forward to all the parent-teacher conferences when Mabel and Bill would come to school. I knew Bill as a loving and caring father. I am sure he was all that to his grandchildren and great grandchildren as well. May God whom Bill served so faithfully welcome Bill with eternal joy, love and peace. sincerely, Sister Susan Lardy

Sister Susan Lardy - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ to Mabel and the Keller family, My prayerful sympathy!! I was Kenny's teach at Cathedral Grade School, for first or second grade. I enjoyed him as a student and I looked forward to all the parent-teacher conferences when Mabel and Bill would come to school. I knew Bill as a loving and caring father. I am sure he was all that to his grandchildren and great grandchildren as well. May God whom Bill served so faithfully welcome Bill with eternal joy, love and peace. sincerely, Sister Susan Lardy

Sister Susan Lardy - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ Uncle Willy, you will be missed, my heart goes out to my cousins and family as I know well what your going thru. There is not a day that I don't think of my dad and what he was to all of us. When I heard the news all I could see was your father being hugged by those that were waiting for him in Heaven. I remember the fishing trips we went on, all the Keller 4th of july picnics, and yes the chess games your dad let me win, after all uncle Willy taught me how to play chess. Many years later, Willy and I were as he did so well, were talking about them golden years....and I asked him why he let me win at chess, his response was because I was the teacher, and if you did not win, I did not teach you so well....your father was like that, always giving, always caring. GOD BLESS you uncle Willy....we will all see you again in our Fathers home for that celebration. Terry Keller

Terry keller - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ My first 15 summers were spent in Bismarck at Willie and Mabel’s when we made the long drive back to North Dakota. The Bruce kids would divide up and stay with one of the Keller families. For Bill and I, that always meant Willie and Mabel’s. It was always Chuck, Dennis, John, Bill, and myself running all day long from the house to the airplane in the park to the A&W and then to the pool when Willie got home from work. Every Bismarck summer was sunburn and chigger bites, and it was a blast. Willie and Mabel became our surrogate parents for those summers. They always made me feel welcome, and seemed to enjoy having some extra kids around; I guess there never could be enough kids around. Every evening there was work in the garden. Every summer there was a fishing trip to one lake or another, always looking for walleye. The freezer would be completely filled with fish. The garage was always a source of amazement, because you had never seen so many fishing poles in your life. Then there was the evening chess game. Willie was always happy to beat you at chess, he was only happier if you could somehow beat him. It only happened once. It seems that I must have picked up the tradition from Willie and Mabel. When I’m working in our own garden, or when I’m out on the lake trolling for walleye, it occurs to me that many of the things that are important to me were learned from Willie and Mabel. Willie was a valuable mentor; he had a large influence on my life, as he has influenced many others. He will be missed.

Lawrence Bruce - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ My first 15 summers were spent in Bismarck at Willie and Mabel’s when we made the long drive back to North Dakota. The Bruce kids would divide up and stay with one of the Keller families. For Bill and I, that always meant Willie and Mabel’s. It was always Chuck, Dennis, John, Bill, and myself running all day long from the house to the airplane in the park to the A&W and then to the pool when Willie got home from work. Every Bismarck summer was sunburn and chigger bites, and it was a blast. Willie and Mabel became our surrogate parents for those summers. They always made me feel welcome, and seemed to enjoy having some extra kids around; I guess there never could be enough kids around. Every evening there was work in the garden. Every summer there was a fishing trip to one lake or another, always looking for walleye. The freezer would be completely filled with fish. The garage was always a source of amazement, because you had never seen so many fishing poles in your life. Then there was the evening chess game. Willie was always happy to beat you at chess, he was only happier if you could somehow beat him. It only happened once. It seems that I must have picked up the tradition from Willie and Mabel. When I’m working in our own garden, or when I’m out on the lake trolling for walleye, it occurs to me that many of the things that are important to me were learned from Willie and Mabel. Willie was a valuable mentor; he had a large influence on my life, as he has influenced many others. He will be missed.

Lawrence Bruce - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Going to miss you Bill. Pray God will bless & comfort your family.

Clem & Mert Graner - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Going to miss you Bill. Pray God will bless & comfort your family.

Clem & Mert Graner - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ To the Keller family, So sorry to hear of the loss of your father, you will be in our thought and prayers. Memories last forever. May he rest in peace

Jerry and Yvonne Peterson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ To the Keller family, So sorry to hear of the loss of your father, you will be in our thought and prayers. Memories last forever. May he rest in peace

Jerry and Yvonne Peterson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ I had the pleasure of working for Bill at the Refinery for several years. Bill was without a doubt the kindest, most generous and positive person that I have ever had the pleasure of working for. He always had a smile on his face and was so interested to hear about your weekend, your kids, and anything else that was going on with your family. He was a true inspiration to me and encouraged me to go back to college to finish my degree and cheered me on along the way. I loved Bill like a father and will miss him dearly. It was a true gift to have him in my life.

Shirley Olmsted - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Our condolence and prayer to the Keller family. May Bill rest in eternal peace

Jim & Darla Hauer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Our condolence and prayer to the Keller family. May Bill rest in eternal peace* ”

Jim & Darla Hauer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM