



Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr.

March 30, 1937 - January 25, 2022

UTICA – Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr., age 84, went home to the Lord on Tuesday afternoon, January 25, 2022, in the comfort and dignity of his home, where he had been lovingly cared for by his daughter Catherine and his family.

Born in Ilion on March 30, 1937 to the late Tilman and Anna (Pickett) Ballard, Keith was raised and educated locally. He attended and graduated from St. Francis DeSales School/Class of 1955. Keith then went on to attend Mohawk Valley Community College and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He proudly served his country from 1956 to 1960, and would always remain a proud veteran.

On July 10, 1965, Keith married his wonderful lifetime partner, the former Leona E. Brown. The couple shared 43 years together before Leona passed on December 7, 2008. The pair was fortunate, for their relationship exemplified their shared philosophy of building a committed marriage on a solid foundation, life-long partnership, and mutual trust. Keith was a quiet man who loved anything to do with his family.

In his earlier years, Keith found employment at Diamonds Market. After that position, Keith shifted to a role he held for over 33 years: Principal Stores Clerk with NY State at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center. Keith held this position until his retirement in 1996.

Keith is remembered as a caring and compassionate man. He was kind to all those he knew, and went out of his way to meet and know each of his neighbors. Keith could be counted on in a moment of need, as he enjoyed being there for others and always offering his loving heart. He had the singular

ability to give his vulnerable and authentic presence generously to others. Keith was often actively involved with the Parkway Senior Center in Utica. Additionally, he enjoyed traveling up north, always at different times of the year with his beloved Leona. He also enjoyed video recording any special family events. However, Keith was especially devoted in his involvement in his faith community.

Very active in his faith, Keith was a strong believer in the Catholic Creed who loved his church and honored God by offering all of himself – from his heart to his service. He was a parishioner at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, where he volunteered weekly as an usher, as well as anywhere else his involvement would be helpful with church activities.

Keith is survived by his cherished daughters, Catherine “Cathy” Ballard, and Shirley and husband Matthew Damico; as well as his sons and daughters-in-law, Daryl and Judith Ballard, Keith Jr. and Dawn Ballard, Richard and Shari Lynn Ballard, and Mark Ballard and Rachel Ruscito. Keith held close to his heart his daughter Cheryl A. Hertel, who passed away September 20, 2007. He will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren: Michael Ballard; Madison Lee Damico; Chastity, Brittany, and Amber Ballard; Joseph Saunders, Jessica Montonaro; Keith Richard, Christopher Stevens, Corey Ballard; Chad Johnston, Scott Johnston, Andrew Johnston, and Gregory Torres. Keith also leaves behind many great-grandchildren, and his in-laws, Harriet LaBrake, Sister Shirley Anne Brown, S.S.J., Mary Gilette, and Ed Brown. Keith was predeceased by his siblings and their spouses, John A. “Jack” Ballard and his first wife, Jean (Brown) Ballard and his second wife, Mary F. (Lukasewicz) Synakowski Ballard; Gerald and Bernice Ballard, Donald Ballard, Kenneth Ballard, Robert and Betty Ballard, Mary and William Daniels; and Dorothy Ballard; Keith’s father-in-law and mother-in-law, Richard and Catherine (Perry) Brown; and his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Barbara Garrand, Rita Brown, Richard Brown, Harold and Gloria Brown, Pat Brown, and infant Robert Brown.

The Ballard family would like to extend their gratitude to the entire staff of

Hospice and Palliative Care, especially to the chaplain Walter Plock, as well as to Keith's loving granddaughter Brittany for her extraordinary loving care and support. The family would also like to extend a special thank you to longtime family friend and neighbor Judy Williams, and to Fr. Bob Kelly for his spiritual guidance and visits.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Eannace Funeral Home Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Keith's Mass of Christian Burial with Military Honors by the U.S. Navy on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 11:00 am at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay Street. Regardless of vaccination status, face masks will be required to remain in compliance with the state and county mask order. Interment will take place at Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Funeral Service

FEB 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay St
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I just happen to be thinking of Keith and tried to see where he was. Upon reading of his passing, I send my deep condolences as one of Keith’s closest friends in both growing up on Hobart Street. Keith and I worked together at my father’s store (Diamond’s Mkt.) and went to St. Francis High School. We made many memories. I clearly remember listening to our favorite Saturday morning radio shows from early on on his big standup radio.

A dear and close friend, I can feel him as if just shared time together.

God Bless with respects to family Jim Diamond, MD ... New Orleans, LA.

james G Diamond, MD - March 25, 2025 at 03:27 AM

DB

“ Omg! I am sending my deepest condolences and prayers 🙏 to the family! I remember I worked for Keith at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center at the storehouse. He was so nice to me and showed me what I was do. Rest in Peace Keith Ballard Sr. Great person.



Dawn Barber - March 08, 2022 at 05:40 PM

TF

“ *The DiNigro Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr.*



The DiNigro family - February 05, 2022 at 11:38 PM

RM

“ *Rosemary Morrissey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr.*



Rosemary Morrissey - February 02, 2022 at 03:06 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



February 01, 2022 at 07:40 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



January 31, 2022 at 07:35 PM

BB

“ *Bob and Shelly Bolinski purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



Bob and Shelly Bolinski - January 31, 2022 at 06:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



January 31, 2022 at 11:19 AM

CS

“ *Cavo Builders Supplies purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



Cavo Builders Supplies - January 31, 2022 at 10:09 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



January 31, 2022 at 07:49 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



January 29, 2022 at 11:04 AM



“ *ChrisDamico lit a candle in memory of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr.*



chrisDamico - January 29, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr..*



January 29, 2022 at 08:18 AM



“ *Linda Spratt sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr.*



Linda Spratt - January 28, 2022 at 02:16 PM

FR

“ *I have very fond memories of Keith who was defined by his consistent kindness and gentle spirit. He was a faithful usher and welcomed all parishioners with a loving smile. He was a devoted man of faith.*

Prayers to his family for your healing in the midst of your grief and loss.

Father John Rose

Father John Rose - January 28, 2022 at 01:50 PM

JW

“ *Judith Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Keith J. Ballard, Sr.*



Judith Williams - January 28, 2022 at 01:28 PM