



## Commander Robert Austin Keeling

February 9, 1938 - November 17, 2007

Commander Robert Austin Keeling, age 69, of Bolivar, Missouri passed away on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at Cox South Medical Center in Springfield Missouri.

He was born on February 9, 1938 in Greenwood, Mississippi to Robert Benton and Emily Josephine Martin Keeling.

He graduated from Carr Central High School in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and enlisted in the United States Navy in 1955. After qualifying for a special Navy program, he attended the University of Mississippi and graduated in 1962 with a BS in Mathematics. After graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the Navy, where he served until 1981 and retired at the rank of Commander. While serving his country in the Vietnam War, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

After retiring from the Navy, he earned a MBA and began a second career as Chief of Distribution for the WIC program in the State of Mississippi.

After his children were grown and out of college, Robert returned to his family roots in Bolivar where he had lived briefly as a child. He enjoyed these last few years spending time with his many cousins and relatives in the area. His family were early pioneers in Polk County with the Keeling's and the

Campbell's. He loved exploring the countryside and fishing. He spent time volunteering for the Bolivar Chamber of Commerce and participating in activities at the American Legion. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church in Bolivar.

He was devoted to his family and always proud of his children. He will be missed by all.

Robert is survived by his daughter; Shannon Keeling of Memphis, Tennessee, a son Austin Keeling of Oxford, Mississippi, a sister; Harriett Gray of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and former wife; Margie Keeling of Jackson, Mississippi.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00pm, Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, Missouri with Reverend Bill Hooper officiating. Musical selections will be "Go Rest High On That Mountain" by Vince Gill, "When I Get Where I'm Going" by Brad Paisley and Dolly Parton, and "Amazing Grace" by Lari White. Interment will follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar, Missouri. Pallbearers will be Bruce Robidou, Jim Raney, Paul Mott, Ron Myers, Ed Clark, and Ron Hutcheson. Full military honors will be provided by the AMVETS Post #114, of Flemington, Missouri. Visitation will be from 5:30-6:30pm, Monday, November 19, 2007 at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar.

The family suggests contributions in memory of Robert to the First Baptist Church, 316 N. Main Avenue, Bolivar, Missouri 65613.

Friends may sign the guest book or send private condolences at [www.butlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.butlerfuneralhome.com)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Commander Robert Austin Keeling*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Commander Robert Austin Keeling*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *My condolences.. may god bless his family....*

**MICHAEL AL-DHAMEN** - November 30, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Commander Robert Austin Keeling*

**Angela Kincade** - November 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Each family member,  
I started working WIC in 1994 and I met Bob soon afterward. He was a man strong on doing things the right way. I really appreciated his desire to see everything work efficently. This was an inspiration to me and I have tried to make that a focal point of my job. My prayers are for you all. His loss will be felt by many.  
Jimmy Newland  
Clahoun County WIC*

**JIMMY NEWLAND** - November 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Was sorry to hear about Bob. I work with WIC and when I went to Jackson for meetings, we would have alot of converstations about our children. He was very proud of His kids.

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**Dana Tackett** - November 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ I just wanted to say how sorry I am for your loss. I work for WIC and in the Fulton, Ms Food Center. When I started for WIC in 1988, I met Bob. He was a very nice man.

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**Sandra Kendrick** - November 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I knew Mr.Keeling from work. He was always pleasant to be around, helpful and saw that we all had what we needed to get our jobs done. He was one of the nicest people I have ever worked with. He went beyond his duties to see that we were taken care of.  
*Angela A. Martin*

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**Angela Anders Martin** - November 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Bob was a wonderful friend and volunteer - Bolivar Area Chamber of Commerce

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**Diana Leslie** - November 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *With Deepest Sympathy*

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**Mary Sue Davis** - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ BOB KEELING WAS A GOOD FRIEND. WE OFTEN THINK OF HIM BACK HERE IN MISSISSIPPI AT DEPT OF HEALTH. WHERE HE WORKED. HE WILL BE MISSED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN. HE WAS A GREAT HELP TO ALL OF US WIC PEOPLE IN THE FIELD WHEN WE WENT TO COMPUTERS TO OPERATE OUR DISTRIBUTION CENTERS IN 1996. OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE FAMILY AT THIS TIME.

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**AUDREY BOONE** - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to all for your loss.

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**Pat Roberts** - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Praying that the Lord will comfort your family in their hour of loss.

*Mississippi State Department of Health WIC Program*

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**Kathleen Gutter** - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I was so saddened to hear of Mr. Keeling's passing. It was a pleasure to work under him in the WIC program. Always good for a laugh, always patient in regards to mistakes on the job, a highly intelligent man. We both served in the military, I in the Army, so we had that in common. Instead of calling me by my name most often it was "Mon-ti-chello". It is hard to say goodbye to loved ones but I pray your memories will help make the days ahead easier for you all. Sincerely, Donna Small

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**Donna Small** - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FL

“ With deepest sympanthy, in your hour of sorrow.

Florine Longmire - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ YOU ALL HAVE MY DEEPIEST SYMPATHIES FROM RUBY PICKETT, MYSELF AND FAMILY

Claudette Lee - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ I offer my deepest sympathy in your lost of a DEAR LOVE ONE, and I will keep you in my prayers.

Dora Dee - November 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of bereavement.

Hazel Gaines - November 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I want each of you to know Bob was a very special person who made a difference to each person he met. He will be greatly missed. Each of you will carry his memory with you the rest of your life.

*May God Bless Each of You*

Chuck Cornwall - November 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *Austin-  
We are thinking of you during this time of loss.  
Michael, Mona, Joseph and Clinton Wanlass*

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**Michael and Mona Wanlass** - November 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *Austin, I am so sorry to hear about your father. My thoughts and  
prayers are with you and your family.*

*Kathy Watson*

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**Kathy Watson** - November 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM