



Gary Clifford Keeling

April 25, 1943 - June 29, 2011

Gary Clifford Keeling, age 68 of Bolivar passed away at 11:14 AM Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at the Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar following a brave battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was born on April 25, 1943 in Butterfield, MO the son of Clifford and Mildred (Pilant) Keeling.

Gary was a graduate of Joplin High School in 1961, Joplin Junior College in 1963, John Brown University in 1965 and Middle Tennessee State University in 1970.

On July 2, 1966 he was united in marriage to Jannis Bland in Neosho, MO. To this union four children were born.

Gary began his 35 year coaching career by spending 2 years in Pleasant Hope as the high school boys basketball coach. From Pleasant Hope, Gary enlisted in the United States Air Force. After serving 4 years Gary was honorably discharged in June 1971 as a staff sergeant. He resumed his coaching career at Jasper High School where he coached boys basketball and girls volleyball from 1971-1979. Gary was the boys basketball coach at Gravette, AR in 1980 and coached girls basketball and volleyball at Bolivar High School from 1984-2008.

Gary had an illustrious career in coaching in Arkansas and Missouri and was privileged to have had 585 wins in his career. In 2005, Gary was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. In 2007 he and his Lady Liberators placed 3rd in the Missouri Girls Class 4A State Tournament. And his final year of coaching in 2008 with his Lady Liberators became State Champions of the Missouri Girls Class 4A Tournament.

Gary touched many lives with his coaching, teaching and famous sense of humor. He was known as a special husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, coach and friend. He will be missed by many.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Bob and Larry Keeling and a niece Gayle Ann Keeling.

Surviving is his wife Jannis of 45 years. Two sons, Gary Keeling of St. Louis, MO; Robert Keeling and wife Lea Ann of Carthage, MO; Two daughters, Dawnmarie Petersen and husband Tommy of Halfway, MO; Brandi Keeling of Bolivar. Two Brothers Bill Keeling and wife Marti of Rogers, AR; John Keeling and wife Deb of San Antonio, TX. One sister, Janice Austin and husband Jim of Joplin, MO. Also his grandchildren, Cord, Layne, Jordan and Grayce Petersen and Matthew and Mallory Keeling and a host of nieces and nephews.

A Visitation will be held on Friday evening July 1, 2011 from 5-7 PM in the Butler Funeral Home Chapel

A Celebration of Garys life will be held Saturday, July 2, 2011 at 10:00 AM at the First Baptist Church in Bolivar with Rev. Ray Leininger officiating. Musical selections will be Amazing Grace by Haley Toombs, Light House by Jerry

Scott, and a congregational song of Precious Memories. Casketbearers will be Todd Schrader, Gary Redford, Shawn Rowley, Jerry Scott, J. R. Collins, Stacy Wells, Darren Archer and Eric DeRossett. Burial will be in the Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home of Bolivar.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Keeling Foundation for Kids, %
P.O.Box 48, Bolivar, MO 65613

Friends may sign the guest book or send private condolences at www.butlerfuneralhome.com

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Clifford Keeling

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ Gary Clifford Keeling

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. I will never forget Coach Keeling and I will continue telling all my stories of being in his classes.*

Josh Faulkner - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Very fond memories of Coach Keeling as a teacher, coach and person. Will never forget his classes (Lifetime Sports and Phys Ed) and his great personality. He made a lasting impression on all. Will greatly miss him. Our thoughts and prayers to his entire family.*

Justin Cofer - July 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *You had a wonderful Dad. He will be missed.*

Abby & Darrin Inglis - July 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *What an amazing person and role model! Will miss him greatly. Thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.*

Bess and Corey Rich - July 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Thinking of you at this time. I remeber you from the college days at SWBU and Neosho. God will be your comfortor at this time. Ann Reynolds

Ann Reynolds - July 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I wish to say goodbye to a very good friend, adios "Jose" and Gary would always say adios "josB". I will always remember you and our years at BHS

Jim Barry - July 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Jannis, Richard and I send our deepest sympathies to you and your family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Jeannie Buffalow

Richard & Jeannie Buffalow - July 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Dear Jannis & Family,
My deepest sympathy for your loss. Gary will be forever remembered by all the lives he touched. You were great neighbors to my mom & dad back in Jasper. My prayers are with you at this time.

Betty Lambeth McElwain - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Gary was a wonderful friend and coworker. He will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with his entire family.

Steve & Diana Smith

Stephen & Diana Smith - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Remembering with smiles the years, the fun, the good times. You will continue to be in my prayers and one of them is that you realize that in Christ there is comfort, peace, and rest--- things the world cannot give you. Love, Vivian

Roger & Vivian King - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Extending my condolences to the family. Gary was a great guy and we had a lot of fun in high school. He will be missed by all

Carol Martin Striegel - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Gary Clifford Keeling

Rick Webb - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ One of the finest men I have ever know has left us! Heaven is a better place today with him there. May God bless you all I know I will miss his warm smile and twisted since of humor.

Ron

Ron Arnold - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. He was a great man who had a positive influence on all he coached.*

Kristen (Chappell) Mann - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Gary was a great guy and will truly be missed.*

*Dan & Gloria Kennedy
Brad & Molly Kennedy
Brock & Elaina Kennedy
Andrea Kennedy & Jeff Mann
Connie Arnold*

Gloria Kennedy - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ *I work with Bill Keeling his brother, I so sorry for the loss of a good man that touched so many lives.*

Chris Amburgey - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Bill,
I was so sorry to hear of your brother Garys passing. Our thoughts are with you and your family. Please accept our deepest sympathy. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers, know that we are thinking of you.*

*Sincerely,
Chris and Robin Wade*

Chris & Robin Wade - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *Deepest sympathies and condolences to you and your family. We will keep you in our prayers.*

Martin and Laurie Lammey - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ *Dawn and family,*

I am so sorry for your loss. I have witnessed on so many occasions the love that he had for his family every time he picked Grayce up from school and they would visit with Klarissa and I at the store. You all are in our continued thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Elizabeth, Klarissa and Kaleb McClelland

Elizabeth McClelland - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *You are in our thoughts and prayers. We sorry for your loss.*

Bruce Pike - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I work with Bill Keeling, and I as well as Bill's co-workers would extend our sympathy and are very sorry for your loss.*

Steve Smith - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *I'm so sorry!*

Laura Franklin-Montgomery - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HG

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Harlie and Nancy Gallatin

Harlie & Nancy Gallatin - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Bolivar has lost a great coach/friend

Josh - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I work with Bill and wanted him and his family know you're in our prayers.

Smith Family

Michelle Smith - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Bill, Sorry to hear of your loss, my thoughts and prayers will be for you and your family during this time.

Kurt Ekstrand - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Coach Keeling will be missed. He was one of the best of the best and we as students of BHS had the great honor of knowing him.

Our prayers and thought go out to the family.

Alishia Breesawitz-Norman - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Gary coached me at Pleasant Hope. I have often thought of those times and smiled as he was fun to be around. I will always remember him as a wonderful coach and friend.

David Fieth - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Jannis and family... I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. My prayers are with you during this sorrowful time.
~April

April Topham - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Dear Rob, LeaAnn and family,
Sending our thoughts and prayers to all of you for the loss of your father and grandfather.
Susan, Jeff & Boys

Susan Williams - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Jannis, Dawn and Brandi,

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Ernie

Ernie Ferguson - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Gary always made the day a little easier to get through. So sorry he was taken this soon.

Eric Briggs - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ *My condolences to Gary's family, he was a great man and the best volleyball official I have had the pleasure to meet.*

Georgiana Turner - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *Coach Keeling was our coach my senior year, At Pleasant Hope 1966. He was a great friend and I have always been pleased to him my Friend. I am so sorry for your loss. Sincerely, John and Carolyn Wilson Ash Grove, Mo.*

John D. Wilson - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My sincere sympathy.*

Kara Miller - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *Thinking of you all! Gary helped shape so many of our lives and will be missed.*

Renee Jones - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *i am so very sorry for your loss coach keeling will always be missed by us in bolivar and surrounding area*

robert bays - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM