



## Ronald James Keller

September 3, 1938 - March 30, 2015

Ron Keller of the High Banks area Easton, MD, died at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center in Easton on March 30, 2015, with his loving and devoted wife, Mary Lou, at his side. He was 76 years old.

Ron was born in Braddock, PA, on September 3, 1938, to the late Anna Kovacic and Findley J. Keller. He was preceded in death by his sister, Barbara June Yeager of Chatham, MA; and a brother, Frank Keller who died at age 2 years.

He attended Pitcairn High School in Pitcairn, PA, and graduated in the Class of 1957. After high school, he joined the Air Force and served eight years which included serving in Alaska, Massachusetts and Spain.

Ron married the love of his life Mary Lou Illig of Irwin, PA, on July 22, 1961. They resided in Springfield, MA, until December, 1962, and then Ron was transferred to Seville, Spain where they lived until December of 1965. Ron was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1965 after serving for eight years.

He earned his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Maryland University College in College Park, MD, in 1967, and earned a Master's Degree in Economics in 1974 from American University in Washington, DC. He briefly worked for Pepco in Washington during the summer of 1967 while waiting for a government clearance. Ron worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, VA, from 1967 until 1985, then transferred to the Defense Intelligence Agency on Bowling Air Force Base in Washington DC. Ron was a senior program manager for the Scientific and Technical Branch of the Department of Defense's Defense Intelligence Agency where he worked until 1993, retiring after 33 years of dedicated government service.

Mr. Keller received the Defense Intelligence Agency's Exceptional Civilian Service Award on October 27, 1992, which was presented by James R. Clapper Jr. Lieutenant General, U. S. Air Force Director. Ron loved ballroom dancing, swimming, and cruising. He was

passionate about watching the University of Maryland Terrapins play basketball and football. Ron was a long-time contributor of the University of Maryland Terrapin Scholarship Fund and the University of Maryland University College Scholarship Fund for returning veterans.

Mr. Keller is survived by his wife of 53 years, Mary Lou Keller, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center, 219 S. Washington St., Easton Maryland 21601.

A memorial gathering will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, from 6:00 pm-8:00 p.m. at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A., 200 South Harrison Street, Easton, Maryland.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

APR 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Easton Location  
200 South Harrison Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
(410) 822-3131  
[info@fhfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ronald James Keller*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - April 02, 2015 at 02:50 PM



“ *Ronald James Keller*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Ronald James Keller*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Ronald James Keller*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Lisa and Dad informed me today (13 June) of Uncle Ron's passing. This news is so shocking and sad. Love and prayers for Aunt Lou. Leslie*

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**Leslie Yeager** - June 13, 2015 at 05:25 PM



“ *My dad and I were stunned to hear of the death of my uncle today. Words cannot express how saddened we are. Our love to Aunt Lou.*

*Lisa Mitten and Frank Yeager*

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**Lisa Mitten** - June 13, 2015 at 12:42 PM

KH

“ *It is with heavy hearts that we received the sad news. Ron's patient, kind, and generous nature will be sorely missed. His unassuming smile and friendly words have touched us all at one point or another. Always a pleasure to watch on the dance floor, Ron and Mary Lou's expressed love for each other through their dancing has long been a source of inspiration and admiration for us, and we've always appreciated that love reflected in each other's eyes and highlighted in every beautiful step. Off the dance floor, Ron, imparted a welcoming spirit to any group or occasion he participated in.*



*May Ron's light and love shine in the hearts of all who knew him and may we be blessed to feel his presence every day. Our prayers and most sincere wishes go out to Mary Lou for comfort and peace in treasured memories of moments shared and the love of family and friends during this trying time and always. As we share in your sorrow, we are also grateful to have had the pleasure of knowing Ron.  
Much Love, Jim DeFrancesco and Kathleen Humphries*

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**Kathleen M. Humphries** - April 07, 2015 at 09:20 AM

BR

“ *Mary Lou,*

*I am truly sorry for your loss. I will never forget how you and Ron opened your house to many of the players from out of town. Thank you for welcoming us to your family. You will be in my prayers.*



*Brian J Conroy*

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**Brian** - April 06, 2015 at 11:26 AM

FK

“ *Mary Lou,*

*My heart goes out to you Mary Lou, Ron will be sorely missed by many. He touched a lot of lives with his wit and generosity. We truly appreciate everything you and Ron have done for our family starting in the late 70's @ The University of Maryland.  
May he Rest in Peace.*

*Frank S. Kolencik*

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**Frank S Kolencik** - April 03, 2015 at 07:16 PM



“ I had the honor and pleasure of teaching Ron Keller and Mary Lou how to dance for the past 10 years. Ron so often made me laugh and smile on our lessons with his dry sense of humor. Over the years Ron and Mary Lou grew to become not just dear friends but family to me. Ron you will be greatly missed by those who loved you. Save me a dance on the other side.  
Amanda



Amanda Showell - April 02, 2015 at 06:58 AM

FH

“ Ron, - for us you always be remembered as a passionate person. Passionate not only in dancing but truly passionate for life in the truest sense. You & Mary Lou were always there lending an extended hand to help with kind words, big hugs or labor or whatever it would take to make a burden lighter for someone. You & Mary Lou not only did beautiful dancing on the ballroom floor but in the many ways you helped others with your time,talent & generosity & kind words. Ron, you were called"home" too early but we know you're going to be the biggest angel yelling & cheering those " Terps " to their championships ! Mary Lou, please know our prayers will continue to be there for you. You will always be an angel for Ron & all of us. With Much Love, Frank & Dotty Hessinger

Frank & Dotty Hessinger - April 01, 2015 at 07:02 PM

JS

“ Jason Lee - Jason's Computer Services purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Ronald James Keller.



Jason Lee - Jason's Computer Services - March 31, 2015 at 11:40 PM

SS

“ Sandra Showell lit a candle in memory of Ronald James Keller



Sandra Showell - March 31, 2015 at 11:23 PM

SS

*A beautiful spirit never passes away, but lives forever in the flickering light. Ron Keller will be always remembered for his generous, lovely spirit and for me, I will forever see he and Mary Lou dancing the Argentine Tango. Pure joy was always on his face during this dance and that is just what dancing should be all about. I am so glad that not only I, but my daughter and son, got to know Ron Keller in this lifetime!*

**Sandra Showell** - March 31, 2015 at 11:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ronald James Keller.*



March 31, 2015 at 09:05 PM

MS

“ *Several years ago, the very first time we ever went dancing on the Eastern Shore, we spotted Ron and Mary Lou dancing a beautiful Tango and we wondered who they were. Later we watched as they performed an amazing Samba at one of Amanda's showcases. As we became friends, we quickly learned that Ron and Mary Lou are just as beautiful on the inside as their Tango and Samba were on the outside. We knew we were fortunate to have the privilege of sharing our lives and our passion for dance together.*

*Thank you Ron and Mary Lou for all your big hugs and your amazing smiles. We will miss you, Ron, so much.*



**Mary Lou Sharp** - March 31, 2015 at 08:59 PM

GE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**George** - March 31, 2015 at 06:01 PM

GD

“ George & Mary Drake lit a candle in memory of Ronald James Keller



George & Mary Drake - March 31, 2015 at 05:57 PM

GE

*Our prayers go out to Mary Lou in this time of loss. Ron will always be in our memories for his love of ballroom dancing and his willingness to always help at every dance. We will miss you Ron, but so happy the pain is finally gone. You have touched many lives on the ballroom floor - now, teach the angels to tango! George and Mary (Drake)*

George - March 31, 2015 at 06:00 PM



*I will always treasure my memory of dancing a foxtrot with Ron at every dance. I always knew that if Ron was at a dance I would get to dance as a lady at least once. He was an angel of a man, who radiated warmth and love at all times. He said more with one look and a few words than most do speaking for an hour. I will miss him tremendously. Aggie Beletsky*

Agnieszka Beletsky - March 31, 2015 at 07:27 PM