



## Keith Eugene DeVries

September 11, 1936 - July 16, 2017

Keith Eugene DeVries (“KD”), of Ventura, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, July 16, 2017, at age 80, with family by his side, after a courageous fight against recently diagnosed metastatic melanoma.

A memorial service and celebration of the life of Keith Eugene DeVries will be held on Saturday, July 22, at 11:00 a.m., at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 508 2nd Avenue North, Clear Lake IA 50428. Interment following the service will take place at the Ventura, Iowa, Cemetery, with military honors provided by the Clear Lake VFW.

Keith was born on September 11, 1936, in Steamboat Rock, Iowa, the son of Minert and Leota (Johnson) DeVries. He graduated from Steamboat Rock High School in 1954. He attended college at Upper Iowa University, majoring in physical education, until joining the United States Air Force. He was on active duty from 1954 to 1958, serving in various locations, including Okinawa, Japan, and was honorably discharged in 1962.

Keith’s career as an air traffic controller began at O’Hare International Airport in Chicago, with the majority spent at the Flight Service Station at the Mason City Airport in Mason City, Iowa. He retired in 1987, having served the Federal Aviation Administration working in an occupation he loved for 31 years and 11 months.

In addition to his full-time career, Keith also held side jobs to allow him to be outdoors and to travel, including working on a farm, delivering Winnebago RVs, and Nieman’s. After his father passed, he assisted his mother by managing the family farm. By example, Keith instilled in his children and grandchildren a great work ethic.

Keith married Sharon Clark, and to this union two daughters were born, Tonya and Tamara (“Tami”).

Keith loved living in Ventura and was grateful to have lived 50 years in the same home, close to the lake and McIntosh Woods State Park.

He loved to travel, having visited 40 states and 10 countries.

He was his family's biggest cheerleader, talking about them to everyone. He looked forward to family gatherings. Family was very important to Keith.

Keith's hobbies in his younger years included flying small aircraft, boating, snowmobiling, motorcycling, and racing stock car No. 7 with Jerry Hejna and Terry Aydelotte.

Keith kept very active his entire life and enjoyed lawn work, walking, painting both indoors and outdoors, and attending stock car races. He was a sports enthusiast and enjoyed watching the Hawkeyes, Cyclones, and Twins, often joking his favorite team was "the one that wins."

In recent years, he enjoyed drives around the lake with his daughter Tami's dogs, taking them on walks through McIntosh Woods and Ventura Heights, and spoiling them daily with treats.

In the summer of 2016, he helped his daughter Tonya and her husband establish an Aronia berry orchard.

Always a weatherman, Keith loved a good Iowa thunderstorm and lightning show, and was rumored to have storm-chased a few.

Keith enjoyed meeting people and starting conversations with everyone he met. He was friendly, warm, and always a gentleman. He loved God, family, country, Christmas and good food. He liked to joke, tried to keep a positive attitude, and often repeated his father's expression, "It's a good day because God made it."

Keith is survived by his daughter Tonya DeVries-Morse and son-in-law Tom Morse; daughter Tamara ("Tami") DeVries and friend Bob Bruns; grandson Tony (Suzanne) Morse; grandson Tyler Morse (Lura Kenet); great grandchildren Isabella Morse and Kaiden Morse; sister Shirley (Mel) Keul; sister Joyce (Dean) Maddux; nephew David Maddux and his daughters, Olivia Maddux and Ava Maddux; friend Connie Sathoff; and neighbor and friend Justin Schneider.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Minert and Leota DeVries.

Memorials for Keith may be sent in care of his daughter Tonya DeVries-Morse at P.O. Box

24, Osage IA 50461.

Keith will be loved, missed, and remembered always.

# Events

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**JUL Memorial Service 11:00AM**

**22**

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Clear Lake United Methodist Church

508 2nd Avenue North, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

# Comments

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“ Hello,

I just happened to Google Keith's name and learned that he had passed away.

My name is Bob Supplee. I was in the Air Force with Keith in Waverly, Ia. and worked with him in Chicago. We also had numerous conversations when I worked in the Waterloo tower and he was in Mason City Flight Service Station. After I transferred to Wichita we lost touch of each other. I regret now that we didn't keep up our friendship.

Keith was always outstanding to work with and was a great team worker. The FAA was lucky to have him as an employee. I was fortunate to have worked with him and have him in my life for the short period of time.

My condolences to the DeVries family.

Bob Supplee  
supplee@ionet.net

**Bob Supplee** - November 15, 2017 at 08:15 PM

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“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



**Tonya Morse** - July 20, 2017 at 12:39 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Keith Eugene DeVries.



July 19, 2017 at 08:40 AM

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“ Thinking of you Tonya and Tami during this difficult time. You will definately have another angel watching over you.

**Rhonda Sommerfield** - July 18, 2017 at 06:33 PM

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“ Keith DeVries....I'm so thankful I had such a good visit with you at a Rex Taylor auction. It was good to share our memories of good times. Tonya & Tami, I'm sorry...I know you will miss your dad! What a treasure he was!  
Sending you hugs,  
Michelle Grell LaRue

**Michelle LaRue** - July 18, 2017 at 06:24 PM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear of Keith's passing. Good man and strong Christian. He did so many things for me when I was physically unable to do for myself. A very giving man. I will miss him and I pray he is resting in the Lord's arms.

Dennis Welsh.



**dennis welsh** - July 18, 2017 at 02:45 PM



“ Very sorry for your loss. Great memories of Keith

**Kyle klinksiek** - July 19, 2017 at 07:08 PM

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“ Alfred And Hiyam Freiha lit a candle in memory of Keith Eugene DeVries



**Alfred and Hiyam Freiha** - July 17, 2017 at 08:42 PM



“ Saddened for the lost of Mr Keith Devries. Our Heart go all out to the family.

**Alfred and Hiyam Freiha** - July 17, 2017 at 08:45 PM



“ Tonya and Tami, so sorry to hear of Keith's passing. I worked with Keith at Mason City Flight Service Station from 1980-1985. We had a great friendship, both on and off the job. We stayed in touch over the years, and I always enjoyed stopping by his house when traveling through Clear Lake and Ventura. He would talk of you and your families a lot. Stay strong, and God Bless.

**Richard Duneman** - July 21, 2017 at 01:12 PM



“ My condolences go out to the family of Keith, "Mr Iowa" as I lovingly called him, certainly made my world a better place with him in it. He will be dearly missed, and I will always cherish our time together, going to races, going to see the goats, taking drives, and always interesting conversations. My heart is broken, Connie

**Connie Sathoff** - July 17, 2017 at 06:39 PM