



## Charles Edward Keesling

July 21, 2015

### Obituary of Charles Keesling

Charles Edward Keesling, 84, went to be with the Lord, Tuesday, July 22, 2015 at LRMCC following a long fight with a chronic illness. He leaves his wife of 45 years, Bonnie (Heaton) Keesling; his sons, Charles Jr. (Chuck), David, and Noel; his daughters, Janet, Christy, and Sandra; 8 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren; and many close friends.

Born and raised in Bristol, VA, the son of Allen and Thelma Keesling, he was a resident of Leesburg for 25 years. In his early years, Mr. Keesling helped sell ice for the family's ice plant. He went on to join the U.S. Army Engineers in the Korean War where he was wounded driving heavy machinery in the construction of air strips and command centers. He left the Army as a corporal and came back to his family's home in Orlando, FL where he began a career with his father working in the assembly and delivery of boats for CorrectCraft. Charles became a Florida Highway Patrolman for several years before ultimately moving on to a career with Shell Oil Company where he retired after 30 years of service. Upon retiring, he and Bonnie moved to Leesburg where they became active in the First Baptist Church. He coordinated the bus program for Saturday Sunday School and for First Academy, driving the children to countless sporting events and extracurricular activities. He led the Nursing

Home Ministry and music program for 11 years. Charles had a special way with animals, children, and those with special needs. He was a beloved grandfather, father, mentor, church deacon, and servant of Christ. His deep bass voice commanded respect, but he displayed a gift for kindness and his ability to instill trust in all he met. His sense of humor and selfless service to others will be missed.

Mr. Keesling's scheduled events are: Visitation at Beyers' Funeral Home- Leesburg on Friday from 5-7 PM; funeral service at First Baptist Church of Leesburg

Chapel on Saturday at 5 PM; burial at Florida National Cemetery on Monday, July 27 at 11:30 AM.

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ One of the greatest men of God I have ever known. A Beloved friend, and encourager. I am a better man for the time spent with Mr Charles. A true Heritage of Faith.

sidney and merideth brock - August 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Bonnie, With saddened hearts, we will be praying for you and your family during this difficult time! Charles' life was such a great insight to a kind and thoughtful heart. Remembering the many years with the Children's ministry at First Baptist will always include you and Charles and the love shown to those children! May you feel the love of friends as the Lord provides you with His love and strength throughout the future!

Jimmy and Neva Williams - July 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dear Aunt Bonnie, Susan and I offer our heartfelt sympathy. Uncle Charles was a fine example and a wonderful uncle, also along with you a fantastic tour guide of Florida. I'll always treasure our highway trips in the car, and enjoyed learning about setting up a camping trailer. His personality and sense of humor were great, too. We all look forward to being reunited with him someday in heaven. I'm sure he and my dad are having a great time now.

Marvin E. Baumgarner - July 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I love you dad, ma the good lord take you into his house were you can live forever in peace and some day we will meet again in the house of GOD until then remember I love you.....

CHARLES EDWARD KEESLING JR - July 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ I met Mr. Keesling through his service as a bus driver for First Academy. Perhaps more than any other single person, he was an encouragement to me in the school year before we started the F.A. football program. There was a prolonged period of time when donations to fund the program dwindled and then stopped altogether and, on one of the many bus rides he took our other teams on, I shared with him my concerns that our fund-raising might fall too short to be able to field a team. Mr. Keesling assured me that God would provide, and the God that he knew so well from walking with Him for so long certainly came through. One of my favorite memories from that first year was when Mr. Keesling drove us out to play Bronson High School. They had a tribute to military veterans in attendance before the game and it was beautiful to see our young men look on with pride as Mr. Keesling, a Korean War vet, joined the other veterans on the field. I miss our talks on the road and look forward to renewing our friendship in Heaven. Mrs. Keesling, thank you for loaning us your husband for those hundreds and hundreds of miles so that we could play those games.

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**Guy Wilson** - July 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I love you dad, ma the good lord take you into his house were you can live forever in peace and some day we will meet again in the house of GOD until then remember I love you.....###GESTURE###

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**CHARLES EDWARD KEESLING JR** - July 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Charles Edward Keesling*

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July 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ We were saddened to hear of Charles' passing. We met Charles and Bonnie when they visited their daughter Christy's family in Pennsylvania, and greatly enjoyed our conversations with him. May God bless you with His peace, strength and love, as you navigate through this time of transition. All our best. The Stevens Family in Pennsylvania

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**The Stevens Family** - July 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ We are so sorry to hear about the loss of Charles. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Juliann & Jim McConnell** - July 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Chris, we are so sorry for your loss!

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