



Keith Leroy Higgins

February 25, 1944 - January 28, 2022

Keith Leroy Higgins (77), beloved husband, father, grandfather, and faithful servant of the Lord, was called to his eternal home by our Heavenly Father on January 28, 2022 surrounded by his wife and children. He led a life of dedicated service to his Christian faith, family, community, and country. Funeral services to honor his life will be held at Bergen Lutheran Church in Roland, Iowa, on Saturday, February 5, 2022 with visitation at 1:00pm and service at 2:00pm.

Keith was born on February 25, 1944 in Iowa City, Iowa, the eldest son of Leroy and Helen Higgins. While growing up in Roland, Iowa, Keith was an active member of Bergen Lutheran Church and excelled at sports, band, choral music, and serving his farming community. Keith graduated from Roland High School (1962) and Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD (1966) with his sights set on attending law school. However, with the ongoing Vietnam conflict, Keith sacrificed his own goals and volunteered to serve the nation he loved. He was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1967, earned his pilot wings in 1968, then flew two consecutive combat tours over the skies of North Vietnam. During this time, he met his future wife, Marian Hawrylak (Cairnbrook, PA), and the two were married on September 11, 1971 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Victorville, CA.

Keeping his family at the forefront of every decision he made, Keith returned to civilian life in 1979 and settled his young family in Hesperia, CA. While working as a corporate pilot, Keith resumed his life-long goal of obtaining a law degree and graduated first in his class from Citrus Belt Law School in 1986. During his distinguished law career spanning over two decades, Keith was a partner of two firms, practiced with State Fund of California, and served in several leadership positions, including Deputy City Attorney of Victorville and Barstow and Director of the High Desert Bar Association. Amongst his colleagues and judges, Keith was regarded as a meticulous and dedicated professional with an exemplary work ethic, leadership, and ability to secure favorable results, especially with difficult and complex cases. Keith retired in 2010 and relocated with his wife to Holly Springs, NC to be near his daughter's growing family.

Above all, Keith was first and foremost devoted to his faith in Christ, humbly serving others, and loving his wife, children, and grandchildren. While living in Hesperia, CA, he was a devoted member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Victorville, CA. He dedicated his personal and professional talents to the service of the church and served in a variety of roles to include church council president, Sunday school teacher and various other ministries; the church cross he built with his sons still stands on the Trinity facade to this day. Later, Keith became a member of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Fuquay Varina, NC.

Although proud of his professional accomplishments, Keith would consider his family his greatest legacy. Throughout his life, Keith never lost sight of what truly mattered. He always had time for his wife, children and grandchildren, and would make himself available to them without fail. He would listen intently and give counsel when asked with kind words of love and encouragement. He had a quick wit and could diffuse tense situations with his humor, stories, and well-timed puns. He was an

avid reader, life-long learner, and possessed a keen understanding of a wide range of subjects. Keith was happiest when he was gardening, woodworking, spending time at the beach with his grandchildren, watching baseball games with his wife, discussing his love of flying with his sons, and reminiscing with his family about his Iowan-Norwegian roots. Through the way he lived his own life, he bestowed a strong sense of faith, patriotism and selflessness to both his children and his grandchildren. Keith was the quiet pillar of strength and support in the family and words cannot express how deeply he was loved and will be missed. May he rest in peace with our Lord and Risen Savior until we are reunited with him for eternity.

Keith is survived by his wife, Marian, of over 50 years; children Julia (Brian) Taylor, Matthew (Melissa) Higgins, Nathan (Stacy) Higgins, and eight grandchildren: Ava, Emilia, Reese, Hannah, Isla, Zachary, Jack, and Christian. He is also survived by his brother, Robert (Maripat) Higgins, mother-in-law Margaret Hawrylak, several cousins and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Helen (Osheim) and Leroy Higgins, and brother Richard Higgins.

As Keith has entered into God's presence, we trust he has heard the Apostle Matthew's words: His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:23 ESV)

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Bergen Lutheran Church, Roland, Iowa or the Wounded Warrior Project.

Cemetery



ROLAND CEMETERY

59168 130th St.,
Roland, IA 50236

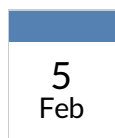
Events



VISITATION

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Bergen Lutheran
Church 101 W. Maple,
Roland, IA 50236



SERVICE

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Bergen Lutheran
Church 101 W. Maple,
Roland, IA 50236

Tribute Wall

G

Gary Thompson

We just learned of Keith's passing today and want to express our Deepest Sympathy to your family. God Bless You. Janet & Gary Thompson



Tribute Store

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. With Love and Sympathy. John, Ornella, Josephine and Junior Harchick.



"America the Beautiful"
was purchased for the family of Keith Leroy Higgins

[Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers



The Wood family

With heartfelt condolences,



"Blooming Garden Basket"
was purchased for the family of Keith Leroy Higgins

[Tribute Store](#)

Show your support with flowers

G

Grace McNally

Keith was a kind, loving, generous gentleman. He was a warrior. He fought a long illness with much grace and faith until he was called home. I'm sure our Lord needs a strong fighter during this time of pandemic and there is no one who will do that longer or better than this kind, caring servant. RIP gentle soul. Fondly, Jim & Grace McNally

R

Robert Sydnes

Keith & I shared the same birthday; we were class mates at Roland High School; and were first year dormitory residents at Augustana University... the only difference was I belonged to Salem Lutheran Church in Roland. Keith was everything his obituary stated a Great Ambassador to our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ & a great role model as a human being ...serving his family, church & country. He will be missed. Robert Sydnes
