

Edwin Ketterling

May 8, 1934 - November 12, 2020

Edwin Ketterling, 86, passed away on Thursday, November 12, 2020 in Barrington, IL. He was born May 8, 1934 on a farm in Streeter, North Dakota. After starting his education in a one room schoolhouse he worked his way through the University of North Dakota, graduating with a bachelor's degree in engineering. He also participated in a foreign exchange student program in Austria. After college Edwin moved to Peoria, IL where he met and married the love of his life, Joyce (Martin) Ketterling.

Edwin had a passion for big tractors. He was an engineer for Oliver Farm Equipment Company and chief engineer for the Magnum Tractor at Case International Harvester. He was a longtime member of CrossLife Evangelical Free Church in Libertyville. He will be remembered as a family man, always putting his family first. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. All who knew him appreciated his wisdom, his passion for the Word of God, and his gentleness. He modeled integrity, a diligent work ethic, and was always willing to help someone in need.

Surviving is his wife of 62 years, Joyce Ketterling; 3 children, Dr. Kevan (Boh) Ketterling, Keith Ketterling, and Kathi (William) Bliler; 8 grandchildren, Janae (Andrew) Griffiths, Hannah (Dan) Nikolich, Morgan Ketterling, emma (Cameron) arbor, Anna Ketterling, Gracie Ketterling, Griffin Bliler, and Dakota Bliler; 3 great grandchildren, Jonathan, Benjamin, and Annalisa Griffiths. He is also survived by 6 siblings, Sally Belzowski, Lynn Wentz, Harlan Ketterling, Jayne Donnelly, Judy (Jack) Ewing, and Daphne (Jim) Kuhn. He

was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Julia Ketterling, and his brother, Marvin Ketterling.

Private family services will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at Lakeside Cemetery in Libertyville. For those that wish to attend services virtually, a link will be available on the funeral home website beginning at 11:00 a.m. Thursday. A Celebration of Life memorial service is planned for spring 2021. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions would be appreciated to PADS, Habitat for Humanity, or Samaritan's Purse. For further info: 847-362-3009.

The family invites you to please share a memory with them at www.burnettdane.com.

Click link below to view live funeral footage at 11:00am Thursday.

<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/71642928>

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lakeside Cemetery
500 W. Lake Street
Libertyville, IL 60048

Tribute Wall



“ *Burnett-Dane Funeral Home created a Live Funeral Footage in memory of Edwin Ketterling*



Burnett-Dane Funeral Home - November 14, 2020 at 02:23 PM

BB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Bill Bliler - November 17, 2020 at 10:25 PM

BB

“My relationship with Papa was unique. He had raised the bar so high for any man trying to win his daughter’s heart...such was the example of husband, father, and provider he had set. Over the years...the bond we developed was special. He treated me as a true son....not a “son-in-law”...and was like a 2nd father to me.

He often said that he was raised on “prayer & Proverbs”. His life was guided by Biblical precepts. He was a true servant of God, and loved Christ with all of his heart. He was wise, humble, and gentle. In 32 years, I never heard him say a mean word about anyone.

I was blessed to spend so many hours with Papa...on cross-country travels, attending countless sporting events of my children, and undertaking numerous home improvement projects. I witnessed over and over his desire to complete any task he undertook...no cutting corners, never quitting before the job was finished, no acceptance of shoddy work or imprecise measurement. And he never tired...midnight would come and go...and he was determined to finish whatever project we were involved with. He was creative and clever...ingenious and inspiring. And now...whenever I am stuck on a project with no logical solution...I simply ask: “what would Papa do?”

But he saved his greatest devotion for God...reading his Bible daily, praying faithfully, allowing God to guide his life. When I sat down with him and asked to marry his daughter, the only request he asked in return...was that I raise my children to be Christians and to love God with all of their heart. This was the most important thing to him.

He has left a legacy of love and a life well-lived. For his family and friends, our memories of Papa will wash away our tears and console our hearts until we see him again in Heaven.

~Bill Bliler



Bill Bliler - November 17, 2020 at 10:07 PM

AL

Lovely...

april leahy - November 19, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ For my entire childhood, I don't think anything made me more excited and more proud than to proclaim “I have the same birthday as my Poppa!” May 8th is a day my dear Poppa and I have always shared. I felt so lucky, my entire life, to get to have that special connection with him; it is a connection I will continue to cherish and honor the rest of my life.

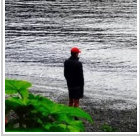
To be a grandchild of Gram and Poppa Ketterling is to truly know unconditional love. I can't ever express the gravity of their commitment to us throughout our lives. Their yearly holiday visit was the highlight of my year. Nothing made me feel more special than when Gram and Poppa got to come to one of my soccer games and cheer me on, or when they met me at school for lunch. Poppa put so much time and energy into making us laugh and making us feel like cherished children of God. He prayed with us, he tickled us, he taught us how to catch ground hogs with a cardboard box and a stuff animal, he sang us songs in German, he built us anything we asked, he celebrated our triumphs, he made the effort to get to know my friends, and he made sure we knew how much we were loved. But most importantly, he let us time and time (and time and time) again “wake him up” from his naps by jumping on the bed as we giggled and ran from the room once we had “disturbed the Poppa bear.”

Love you forever Poppyseed. I am forever blessed to be your granddaughter and birthday twin. Love, Anna

*This photo is from our trip to Sunriver where Poppa taught me how to play chess! I think I eventually I might have even managed to beat him!



Anna Ketterling - November 17, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ So ... My Dad,

Never knew anyone with as much “German Determination” (not stubbornness ☐)

Never knew anyone with as much integrity, consistency, compassion

Never knew anyone with as much loyalty to my mom and us kids

Never knew anyone who so lovingly called me “Buddy Bear”

Never knew anyone who placed others’ needs above his own without reservation

Never knew anyone as funny, tender, and playful

Never knew anyone who would argue politics with me and still love me just as much

Never knew anyone who was as perfect a Poppa, and so adored by his grandkids

Never knew a Christian who was so unwavering and consistent in his faith

Never knew a person who I am so certain God will actually seek advice from

Never knew anyone who was so iconic that my whole life, I just wanted to be half the father that he was

... But I did know my dad, and he was all of those things

... And for that, I will always be the luckiest Buddy Bear ... ever!!!

I love you Dad!

~Keith

Keith Ketterling - November 17, 2020 at 03:30 PM

AL

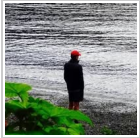
Such beautiful words ❤️

april leahy - November 17, 2020 at 07:40 PM

JB

I am a better person today for knowing Edwin and Joyce and the Ketterling family. What a beautiful family and Edwin is the most honest person I have ever met in my life. He will be greatly missed.

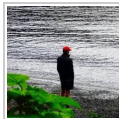
Jim Berry - November 18, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Keith Ketterling - November 17, 2020 at 12:39 PM



I took this photo of Mt Hood the morning my father passed. It seemed like Heaven was bright and alive and celebrating the homecoming of God's faithful servant. Keith

Keith Ketterling - November 17, 2020 at 12:41 PM

“ Things I learned from Papa

**When Kirby vacuums offered a lifetime warranty, they clearly weren't expecting "Ed from Libertyville".*

**There is usually a clever way to fix almost anything.*

**Read your Bible. Every day. Underline it in red pencil and use a straight edge. Embrace your questions. The truth of the text will always win.*

**Everything tastes better with salt.*

**Gram's cooking is the best. Accept no imitations.*

**Growing up on a farm is very hard work- but it offers some of the best childhood adventures.*

**When someone has a problem, let it interrupt your agenda and don't stop thinking about it until you've helped them solve it.*

**Be responsible with your stuff. One childhood comb should go the distance.....*

**Embrace the humor in everyday life and don't take yourself too seriously. Sometimes bunnies in the yard DO win.....*

**Respect the bull. Always respect the bull.*

**Hitchhike to college if you must, but get there somehow.*

**Anesthetic at the dentist is optional.*

**Tell the truth.....just Do it...*

**Try to turn cranky people into friends. Sometimes they will surprise*

you.

**Kathi gives splendid haircuts.*

**No one loves you more than Gram.*

**Bootstraps ARE useful.*

**God is GOD and you are not. Don't confuse that one.....*

Papa took a big piece of my heart with him to heaven. I look forward to getting it back someday. XOXOXXOXOXOXOXOXOX

Kathi (Ketterling) Bliler



Kathi Bliler - November 17, 2020 at 08:27 AM

GB

“ My grandfather had a special combination of diligence, wisdom, and love. He was the kind of person that would think carefully about a task and then do it to completion while never forgetting the "why" behind it. He was a fantastic listener and spoke with a quiet, reassuring confidence. He truly loved the Lord his God with all of his heart, soul, mind, and strength, and he showed that by how he loved my grandmother, my parents, and my sister and I. His humor was amazing- he was always able to poke fun at himself regardless of how successful and respected he was. I have so many memories I could share, but our mornings at the church gym were near the top of the list. We would do simple things- kickball, basketball, or thunderball, and then search for a dollar he had inevitably hidden in our shoes that we would then use to buy a can of pop from a vending machine. However, doing them with Poppa truly made those moments priceless. I will miss him dearly, but I am so thankful to God for the many wonderful memories with him, and I can only imagine how special it will be to one day see him again in heaven.

Love always,

Griffin Edwin Bliler



Griffin Bliler - November 16, 2020 at 09:11 PM

DB

“ Papa was the most wonderful grandpa everrrr....more affectionately known as Eddie-boy when I wanted to mess with him, he was a man of great wisdom, kindness, crazy intelligence, and adventure. A day with Papa was always a day of unknowns- ranging from Andy-I-Over to broom ball and gym days as kids to smoothie chats and construction-site watching as I grew up. He taught me to wake without an alarm (HIGHLY necessary), how to devour a plate of fruit in 5 mins flat, and to find reasons to laugh. No matter where I lived, Papa was a constant source of support. He loved God and he loved others- simple but a recipe for life well lived. While my heart aches to know there will never be another human like him to enter my life, I know he is living his best life right now- probably doing some wall sits and eating a plate of fruit before bed. :)



Dakota Bliler - November 16, 2020 at 08:32 PM

DF

“ Dear Joyce,
Although we live in Wisconsin now, I still receive Crosslife's Weekly Prayer & Praise Update as a means of staying in touch with my former church family. In reading it today, I learned the sad news of Ed's passing last week. I just want to reach out to you to say how very sorry I am for your loss. I have such fond memories of you and our many years together at Crosslife! Please know that I will be praying for you and for your dear family as you all adjust to Ed's new home in heaven.

Love & Prayers (Rev.7:15-17)
Doris Finkel

Doris Finkel - November 16, 2020 at 05:28 PM

LN

“ During my sister’s fight with cancer a few years ago, she would speak of friends who did kind acts of service for her, but the one name mentioned most often was Kathi. When Winona faced spending Christmas alone, Edwin & Joyce Ketterling warmly opened their arms and their home to her and then included her in their Christmas activity again last year. It was such a comfort to me to know my beloved sister was not alone on Christmas Day, and I was grateful.

Even though the patriarch of the Ketterling Family has gone to his reward, his legacy will continue shining brightly through Kathi and this wonderful family.

May God comfort the grieving hearts of Mrs. Ketterling, precious Kathi, and all the family.

~ Linda Neher

Greenwood, Indiana

Linda Neher - November 15, 2020 at 10:54 PM

WW

“ I knew Mr Ketterling through Kathi. Like Kathi, he and his sweet wife, were so kind to show inclusion and hospitality on holidays when I was alone. Last Christmas, we served together at a homeless shelter. What a precious memory of Mr and Mrs Ketterling and their family preparing meals and serving the needy on Christmas Day.

May God be very near and comfort this entire Ketterling family at their time of grief and loss, is my prayer.

With love ~ Winona

Winona Westbrook - November 15, 2020 at 10:06 AM

LG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. He may be gone but not forgotten. Always in your memories. Linda and Jack Grether

linda grether - November 15, 2020 at 08:12 AM

JL

“ *Kathi, I am so sorry for your loss. May your dad Rest In Peace. I never got to meet your dad, but hearing you talk about him tells me he was a wonderful father and husband. I pray you find some solace in knowing he is at peace with our savior. May God bless you and your entire family at this difficult time.*

Janice Levernier

Janice Levernier - November 14, 2020 at 09:52 PM