

Jerome "Jerry" Keyes Jr.

JAN 9, 1935 - JAN 15, 2024



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Jerome "Jerry" Keyes Jr.

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Jerry Keyes was born in 1935. He died in January 2024 in Hawai'i. He was 89 years old.

Jerry grew up in Virginia with a love of baseball, football, and archery. The second of six

children, Jerry was his father's right hand man, helping with a myriad of projects on the

homefront. Jerry attended Duke University, majoring in business, and played varsity baseball

while traveling home many weekends to produce and sell top quality bows. During this time,

Jerry met his future wife, Barbara Van Popering, at Teela-Wooket Archery Camp.

Having no career plans during the spring semester of senior year, Jerry went to the Navy

recruiting office with some of his Fraternity Brothers and decided to apply for Officer Candidate

School. During his first year in the Navy, Jerry played Navy baseball as a pitcher with a

formidable forkball in his arsenal! Jerry and Barbara were married and spent their honeymoon

centered around Navy baseball. They then headed to Corpus Christi, TX where Jerry started

flight school on the P2V (sub trackers) aircraft. His first Navy Pilot assignment was in Honolulu,

HI flying C130 cargo planes. During this time, Jerry's first two children were born and Barbara

and Jerry developed many lifelong friendships. Jerry finished his Naval career in



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Okinawa,

Japan.

Jerry spent the remainder of his professional life as a pilot for United Airlines. After flight school

in Denver, he and Barbara moved to New Jersey where Jerry's third and fourth children were

born. He flew a wide variety of different aircraft: DC8, DC10 (he was not fond of this aircraft!)

Boeing 727, 737, and finally, his favorite...the Boeing 747, flying routes to Asia and South

America. He commented that flight school for the 747 was so difficult, it about killed him! But, as

we all know, if Jerry wanted something, he went for it!

Jerry and Barbara raised their children in Fairfax Station, VA. Through example, Jerry set high

expectations for his children and supported them in making responsible decisions.

He helped

his children to follow their passions, encouraged intellectual development, and he was a doting

grandfather. Once the kids flew the coop, Jerry and Barbara loved spending their retirement in

Colorado. Jerry avidly enjoyed time with friends and never passed up a chance to share a good

story. And, let's not forget his love of bridge, golf, computers, Duke basketball, and the stock

market!

Following Barbara's death, Jerry found Marli Wedgeworh-Horst, the second love of his life, and

they cherished their time together in Eagle, Highlands Ranch, and on trips near and far.

Jerry was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Barbara Keyes, his son Jeffrey Keyes,



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his

parents Jerome and Helen Keyes, his sister Sandra, and his brother Eric. Additional pictures of

Jerry can be found on Barbara's obituary site.

Jerry is survived by his beloved partner Marli Wedgeworth-Horst, his daughter Dawn (Dan)

Pratt, his son Bruce (LaRae) Keyes, his daughter Laura (Glenn) Hamilton, his grandchildren

Michelle (Kevin) Phillips-Pratt, Mark (Lizzy) Pratt, Amy (Chris) Leong, Dani Hamilton,

Michael Hamilton, Carly Keyes, Cody Keyes, Kenzie Keyes, and two

greatGrandchildren Grace Pratt and Ronan Phillips-Pratt, as well as his sisters Sharon Skaggs, Linda

(Dale) Kerns, and Melissa Keyes.

The family is hosting a drop-in reception at Golden Eagle Community Center, 715 Broadway Street, Eagle, CO 81631 on Friday, February 2 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Senior Spot program of Caregiver Connections, PO Box 9727, Avon, CO 81620.




Events


Jerome "Jerry" Keyes Jr.

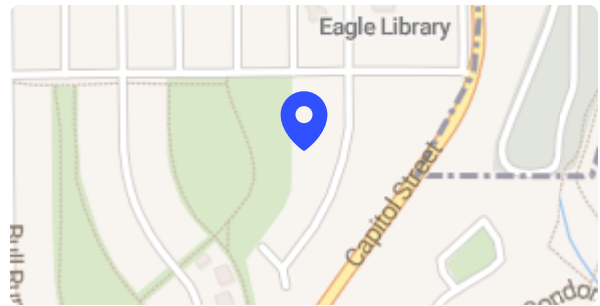
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Drop-In Reception

 **Friday**, February 2, 2024

 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM MT

 **Golden Eagle Community Center**
715 Broadway Street, Eagle CO 81631





Tribute Wall

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JB

Jamey Bingel posted:

As the year approaches since the passing of Jerry the acceptance is more real. I meet both Jerry and Barbara in the later years. Jerry filled a void I did not know existed until his passing. His exuberant for life and adventure was contagious. As I left Hawaii, he returned to the place that gave him peace. The knowledge of this definitely made his passing a bit more easier to accept. I made not of known him long, but I long to visit him and learn more. He's missed so much. ❤️

September 30 at 2:26 PM

GS

Gene Stepanovic posted:

God Bless Barbara and Jerry! They both have touched our hearts and for that we will be forevergrateful! With Special Fondness, Gene and Ginnie Stepanovic

February 4 at 4:27 AM

MH

Marli Wedgeworth-Horst posted:

Jerry was my second great love in my life. He represented everything I wanted in a partner. Now he is gone, and he left a very large imprint on my memories and my heart. Goodbye, sweet love, yours forever Marli

February 3 at 5:54 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jerome by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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