



## Dr. John Frederick Keller

September 25, 1930 - July 6, 2020

Dr. John F. Keller, 89, Valley City, N.D., passed away Monday, July 6, 2020 in CHI Mercy Health, Valley City. The funeral service will be 11 am Monday, July 13, 2020 at First Baptist Church, Valley City. Visitation will be one hour prior to the funeral service. A graveside service will follow later that afternoon at 3:30 pm, Monday July 13 at Goodrich Cemetery, Goodrich, ND.

John Frederick Keller was born September 25, 1930 to Fred A. Keller and Martha (Martin) Keller in Harvey, ND. His baptism took place in 1948 at First Baptist Church, Goodrich. John graduated from Goodrich High School in 1948, and attended summer sessions at Valley City State Teachers College (VCSTC) from 1948-1951, teaching in rural schools during the school years. In the fall of 1951, he was inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces serving in the Korean Conflict. He was honorably discharged in 1953 and returned to VCSTC to complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Education with a composite major in business education and a minor in public school music in 1955. He received his Master's Degree and his Doctorate in Education from UND in 1960 and 1973 respectively.

Prior to his coming to VCSU, Dr. Keller taught business education/administration courses at Mayville State University and at Dawson County Junior College in Glendive, MT. He also taught for many years in public high schools in ND, including Sherwood, Velva, and Valley City as well as three years in rural schools in Sheridan County.

Dr. Keller was a full professor in Business at Valley City State University from 1968 to 1993. He served as Chairman of the Division of Applied arts (now the Division of Business) from 1970 until 1990, at which time he chose to “step down” as division chair and go into a “phase out” plan for his retirement in 1993 at which time he received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Keller was active in many professional business teacher organizations. He served as president-elect, president, and past-president of the North Dakota Business teachers, Mountain Plains Business Teachers, and the Association of North Dakota College Teachers of Accounting. He was also a member of the Valley City Retired Teachers Association, Alpha Omega Phi, Delta Phi Epsilon, and the National Business Association.

He was a parishioner of the First Baptist Church, Valley City. He was a member of the Valley Troubadours for 44 years, Valley City Eagles and Elks member for more than 30 years, and a member of the American Legion Goodrich for 65 years.

John’s family extends their sincere gratitude to Phyllis Richter and Amy Anderson for their assistance, good food and friendship they provided to him allowing him to stay in his home along with good friends and church family. He is survived by sister Lois (Keller) Schell , Minot ND; nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews Kari Schell, Minneapolis; John and Tania Schell (Lucas and Josie), Bismarck; Carmen and Brian McElroy (Sara, Davis and Dan), Kansas City. To all he was known as either Uncle John or Great Uncle John. John was preceded in death by parents Fred Keller and Martha (Martin) Keller of Goodrich ND.

Memorials may be directed to Valley Troubadours, 920 3rd Ave NW, Valley City, ND 58072.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at [www.oliver-nathanchapel.com](http://www.oliver-nathanchapel.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
3511 Kathryn Rd. S.  
Valley City, ND

## Funeral Service

JUL 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
3511 Kathryn Rd. S.  
Valley City, ND

## Graveside Service

JUL 13. 3:30 PM (CT)

Goodrich Cemetery  
Goodrich, ND

# Tribute Wall

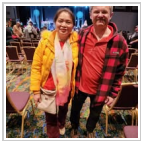


“ 1 file added to the album *Dr. John F. Keller Funeral Service with Military Honors*



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**Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel** - July 14, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ *I took some business classes from was always fun. Rest in Peace.*

*Barry Rausch  
1983.*

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**Barry Rausch** - July 13, 2020 at 11:25 AM

AM

“ *Why did I wait until this morning to write my thoughts on my friendship with John. He loved everyone! When greeting him in church, he always got up, gave me a hug, and treated me like I was a long time friend ( I compare his reaction to a puppy, being so enthusiastic).*

*He would even share a recipe! He loved the jams, breads, whatever!*

*My first instinct, when entering church, was to look toward the pew where he sat all the time.*

*When cleaning out his house, he gave me a complete set first to advanced books on shorthand! I wish I could write him a note, now to tell him Thank You for being You! Ardis Martin*

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**Ardis Martin** - July 13, 2020 at 10:00 AM

JK

“ I have known Dr. Keller for most of my life. When my dad, Dean Karges, was at UND working on his Master's Degree, John was at UND working on his EdD. His mom baby sat me during that time. I know that my dad appreciated his friendship at VCSU and at First Baptist Church over the years. On occasion, he would help my dad audit the books at the church.

Dr. Keller was proud of me when I received my EdD, and would always call me Dr. Karges in church, so, of course, I would always call him Dr. Keller. He enjoyed when I played the flute during church services, and I was happy to be able to softly play a few hymns for him at the hospital the day before he passed away. He had a strong personal relationship with Jesus, and told me several times in the last year that he was praying for my husband and me as my husband went through treatment for cancer. I will miss seeing Dr. Keller when I come home to North Dakota, but I know he is rejoicing in heaven.

Joy Karges-Brown, PT, EdD, MS  
Professor & Director of Clinical Education  
Department of Physical Therapy  
School of Health Sciences  
University of South Dakota

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Joy Karges-Brown - July 12, 2020 at 07:48 PM

KJ

“ Mr. Keller Was an excellent teacher and was my favorite of all times. God's peace and RIP Mr Keller.

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Kathy Johnson - July 12, 2020 at 01:40 PM

TF

“ I taught with a John for four year at VCSC in the late 1970s he was an excellent Professor and a kind and generous man. John was also my division Chair and a great mentor to a very young Accounting professor. John was a very kind loving human being who worked incredibly hard to give his students the best education possible. He was also one of the greatest walkers I have ever met, he could walk me, a twenty something colleague, into the ground. Rest In Peace John you will not be forgotten by the many people whose lives you have touched. Tom Fauchald Professor Emeritus Bemidji State University

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**Tom Fauchald** - July 10, 2020 at 10:54 PM

SW

“ Whenever I returned to Valley City and happened to run into John Keller, he greeted me with a huge smile. He always expressed genuine interest in hearing how my career was going in Atlanta. Ever grateful to have had my father as an instructor at VCSC, he didn't skip a beat to say, "Gilmour Hanson taught me everything I know." He was very complimentary regarding their business relationship and friendship over their many years. I will miss seeing Mr. Keller, but I believe they will be discussing their days spent in Business Education and lives well-spent in Valley City in God's Heavenly Realm.

Shelley L Williamson  
Commerce, Georgia

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**Shelley L Williamson** - July 10, 2020 at 06:06 PM

SK

“ He was a passionate professor who was dedicated to educating his students and making sure they were ready for their business careers.

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**S Ketelsen** - July 10, 2020 at 05:05 PM

LS

“ I am saddened to learn that John Keller passed away. He was my high school teacher, along with my dad, MH Strandberg. John and I kept in touch through the years via the 1960's class reunions. John would attend, like the most recent one just a few years ago where he remembered loaning his car to a former student, told him who when and where..He was amazing and always engaging and caring about former students and wanted to know what we were doing etc. He was a great guy with that booming voice. I won't forget him. He was a gift to the community.

Lee R Strandberg PhD  
VCHS Class 1963  
Emeritus Professor of Pharmacy  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon

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**Lee Strandberg** - July 10, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ Sad news since my mental image of VCSU and Valley City will always include John. He was a great colleague during our time at VCSU and was always willing to unselfishly give of his time and wisdom when he mentored students or younger faculty. We cherish our memories like so many others who've commented.

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**Ray Brown** - July 10, 2020 at 10:51 AM

HG

“ I know him from meals on wheels deliveries. He would always ask about VCSU and how things are going (he knew I worked at VCSU). And he loves his butter! I am sad not to see him on my route any longer and have our little chats

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**Hilde van Gijssel** - July 09, 2020 at 07:30 PM

DH

“ I was a high school student of Mr. Keller, graduating in 1961 from VCHS. He was an excellent teacher and his encouragement sent me to VCSC. I was a business ed. instructor after graduation from college. On his 80th birthday I sent him a message in shorthand and he replied in kind! Good memories.  
Diane (Sauer) Hughes

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**Diane Hughes** - July 09, 2020 at 10:31 AM

DK

“ John was a gem of a person. I didn't have him as a professor but got to know him as an alum and through church. John loved VCSU and Valley City so much. I can hear him singing from heaven already.

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**David Klein** - July 09, 2020 at 09:04 AM

PH

“ VCSU had a great teacher with Dr. Keller. On a personal note he was always one to greet you on the street, campus, walking by his home. Good guy always

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**paula heinze** - July 09, 2020 at 01:31 AM

DB

“ My first memories of John are from Goodrich. He would come home to visit his mother, and I'd see him in church. Years later, we ended up back on church together in Valley City.

*I enjoyed listening to him sing. He had such a strong voice, and sang from his heart. He was also very supportive of our youth group.*

*Whenever I'd stop to visit with him, he'd always start with, "How are you, my friend?" He could always make me feel special!*

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**Dianna Van Bruggen** - July 08, 2020 at 09:48 PM

TK

“ *Friends and Family of Dr. Keller: Dr. Keller was not only a supporter of VCSU, he was an advocate for "business education" at the state, regional, and national levels. We would visit at NBEA meetings, and he was full of energy and enthusiasm for the learning opportunities at these conferences. As a 1968 business education graduate of VCSU, I missed Dr. Keller as a professor. But I was a "study" for some of his graduate projects in shorthand. Rest peacefully, Dr. Keller!*

*Terry Kemmer  
Professor Emeritus of Business  
Mayville (ND) State University*

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**Terry Kemmer** - July 08, 2020 at 09:32 PM

DF

“ *Dr. Keller was my professor in Accounting at VCSU and a great mentor. We became good friends over the years. He loved to visit. We would always visit about my son-in-laws family -the Felchles from Goodrich ND. Ken's dad, Gordon Felchle and John were high school classmates. John was a great supporter of VCSU and Viking Athletics. RIP John.*



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**Deb Feuerherm** - July 08, 2020 at 09:06 PM

BL

“ *Mr. Keller was my business teacher in high school. After high school, he preferred to be called John, and I would see him many places around town and we would have a good visit. He was always so happy.*

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**Bev Loken** - July 08, 2020 at 05:36 PM

CP

“ *Dr. Keller asked me to apply to teach one year while he worked on his Ph.D. I was then able to work in the Registrar's office for 28 years. I will always appreciate his giving me the opportunity to work at VCSU. He will be missed!*

*Carl Peter, Retired VCSU Registrar*

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**Carl W. Peter** - July 08, 2020 at 05:12 PM

MT

“ I have known this man for many years, always called me “his friend”, loved to hear all his stories.  
Rest in piece my friend!

*Mary. Tangen*

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**Mary Tangen** - July 08, 2020 at 02:13 PM

DM

“ To Dr. John's Family,

*I was saddened to hear of Dr. John's passing. John recommend hiring me as a part-time business teacher at VCSU in 1976 and was instrumental in my becoming a full-time professor at VCSU in 1978. He was a great colleague, mentor, and friend. You would be very "hard pressed" finding someone who loved VCSU as much as John did.*

*I hope you feel surround by as much love as John gave others.*

*Dave and Beve Melgaard*

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**David and Beve Melgaard** - July 08, 2020 at 01:58 PM

LR

“*Dr. Keller was an icon in the Business Division at Valley City State University for many years. His students will remember him for his dedication, passion and love of teaching. He inspired his students to set the bar high. He was known for his energy, strong voice, and commitment to teaching and VCSU. John was born to be a teacher and he was a very good one. You could hear him ask the students, "Is it a credit, or is it a debit?" His contributions to VCSU and his many students are many. He will be missed!*

*Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement ,  
Valley City State University*

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**Larry Robinson** - July 08, 2020 at 01:35 PM