



Keith E. Bazaire

July 31, 1938 - April 24, 2024

Keith E. Bazaire, of Parrish, Florida., formerly Charlotte, Michigan passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on April 24, 2024 at the age of 85. He was born on July 31, 1938 in Isabella County, the son of Henry and Wilma Bazaire. Keith grew up in Barryton, Michigan, and along with his 3 siblings, helped his parents run and maintain the family farm, which instilled in him a work ethic that would serve him well throughout his life. Keith lived a long and fulfilling life with his wife of 64 years, Connie (Carter) by his side, they were married on June 24, 1961 at the First Congregational Church in Charlotte, Michigan. After graduating from Barryton High School in 1956, Keith went on to study Chemical Engineering, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1960 from Michigan State. He would later attend Ohio State University, where he earned a Master's degree in chemical engineering, and shortly thereafter, Keith began his career at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan, as a Plastics Engineer.

A new professional opportunity was presented to Keith in 1968, when his father-in-law, Theo Carter (of Charlotte) asked Keith to join him in the retail grocery company that he founded, known as Carter's IGA. Keith accepted Theo's offer, and the two, along with trusted and loyal associates, would begin building a successful chain of grocery stores in the Mid-Michigan area. Upon Theo's retirement in 1980, Keith would reside over the company as the President and CEO for the next 20 years, ultimately guiding the company to a

21 retail store operation throughout the State of Michigan. Keith served on several Board of Directors positions over the years, which included Oven Fresh Bakery in Grand Rapids, Michigan Grocers Association, and Independent Bank. Keith also served as the President of the Charlotte School Board, 1981.

After three decades of service and guidance, Keith retired from Carter's, Inc. in 1999.

Keith and Connie enjoyed many years of traveling with their life-long friends, Larry and Sonnie Cody of Charlotte. Keith and Larry both earned their private pilot licenses in 1988, and would later purchase a Cherokee Piper airplane together, which they used to fly around the State of Michigan and beyond attending summer and fall festivals, trips to Mackinac Island, etc. Keith, Connie, and the Cody's would discover, and fall in love with a spot on the island of Maui, Hawaii, that they returned to on vacation for many years. Over the years, friendships were made on the Island, and Maui always held a special place in Keith's heart. Later in life, Keith would grow a passion for gardening and landscaping, and would spend countless hours planting and maintaining his butterfly garden, and tropical flowering plants at his home in Florida. Keith always cared deeply about his family, friends, neighbors, and his community. He will be missed beyond measure, and the memories he created will forever be cherished.

Keith is survived by his wife Connie; sons, Jeffrey, Kevin, and Michael (Erron Sparks); grandchildren, Allison (Bill) Bazaire, Carter (Lincy) Bazaire, Ty (Kristin) Pion, Brooke (Daniel) Miller; great grandchild, Hazel; sister, Jeanette (Lance) Natsch; brother, Gary (Beverly) Bazaire. Keith was preceded in death by his father, Henry; mother, Wilma; father-in-law, Theo Carter; mother-in-law, Atha Carter; and brother, Bill.

Family and friends are encouraged to support Keith's family by sharing

memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com

A graveside service for family and friends will be held at Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte, Michigan, Summer 2024. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **25.** 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Pray Gardens
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Graveside Service

JUL **26.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Keith E. Bazaire



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 23, 2024 at 02:00 PM

MC

Makes me smile seeing their faces. True and genuine heroes of Charlotte. Will forever cherish the days of Carter's, Inc.

Monique Colizzi - July 24, 2024 at 10:54 PM

JR

“ The memories I have of Keith are all good ones as I'm sure everyone else feels the same. Keith liked his fishing. I went on several great lakes charters with him and boy was he serious about catching salmon. I was with Carter's for 32 years and most on the time Keith was president. He was a great person and a good leader. He treated everyone like they his family.
Rest in peace Keith
Jack Ridpath

Jack Ridpath - May 04, 2024 at 03:29 PM

MB

Thank you for the kind words Jack. My dad always respected you, and your knowledge of the business.

Mick Bazaire - May 05, 2024 at 08:24 PM

AD

“ Annemarie D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Keith E. Bazaire.

Annemarie D. - April 29, 2024 at 10:34 AM

GB

“ Connie and I were classmates from elementary school through high school. In the fall for 1956 I started as a freshman at M.S.U. When I moved in at Butterfield Hall, I had two roommates. One was Keith Bazaire from Barryton, MI. We hit it off from the start and spent our time tending to business while the other roommate enjoyed the night life. He was serious about his studies and was a high achiever. He went on to contribute his talents in the business world and in his community. He and Connie certainly raised a nice family. My sincere condolences to Connie and the Bazaire family.

Gary Beebe & Midge

Gary Beebe - April 27, 2024 at 11:35 AM

MB

Thank you for the kind words Mr. Beebe. My dad recently reminisced about his freshman year at MSU, and the third roommate that lacked the discipline that you and my dad exhibited.

Mick Bazaire - April 27, 2024 at 10:32 PM

MC

“ *What an amazing man and leader. He always had a smile on his face, treated everyone with kindness and grace. He was humble, giving and genuinely cared about others. I had the privilege to work under his direction at Carter's. What a down to earth soul who loved the community of Charlotte and the family at Carter's. Loved his boys, grandchildren and Mrs. Bazaire. Sense of pride, integrity and work ethic which is unmatched. Rest in Peace Mr. Bazaire - a life well lived.*

Monique Colizzi - April 26, 2024 at 10:51 PM

MB

Thank you Monique. Your kind words for my dad mean a lot.

Mick Bazaire - April 27, 2024 at 10:34 PM

CR

Jeff, Kevin and Mick,

So very sorry for the loss of both your parents. Loved having you all as neighbors "back in the day"! Lots of memories of you kids and your parents. Your parents were both such wonderful people:). Really enjoyed your family being across the street.

Cindy Mohre Robinette - July 24, 2024 at 09:11 PM