



## William Charles Keyser

July 9, 1941 - March 7, 2020

William Charles Keyser (Bill) was born on July 9th 1941 in Nashville TN, the third and youngest child to Albert & Elizabeth (Punch) Keyser. Soon after Bill's birth they moved back to Pensacola FL where he grew up on E. Lakeview Ave. This is where his love for the water was born whether it be water skiing, sailing and anything else involving boats. When Bill turned 14 he rode his bike up to Pensacola airport and found his newest and biggest life passion, flying. Eventually he got his first aviation job at Bell Aviation working for Odie Bell. He swapped working on the ground doing anything he could to gain flying time and instruction. Bill soloed on his 16th Birthday, got his private pilots license on his 17th Birthday, & his Commercial Pilots License on his 18th birthday thus becoming the youngest pilot in the Pensacola area. He graduated from Pensacola High School in 1959, went to Pensacola Junior College until he entered the USAF in 1961. He was trained as a Radar tech under NORAD and stationed at the Fortuna Air Base in Fortuna ND. In 1963 he met the love of his life Vernetta J Nelson and married her on Feb 15th 1964. After Bill left the USAF in 1965 Bill & Vernetta moved to Franklin Park IL. where Bill continued his education and resumed flying in the Chicago area. Bill worked for GTE & Continental Telephone as an Electrical Engineer. In July of 1967 their son Robert was born. They lived in Illinois & Minnesota until 1976 when he left Continental Telephone and they moved back to Vernetta's parents family farm in Zahl ND. Bill took over farming from Vernon & Eileen Nelson and built a successful Aerial Spraying business as well. Bill farmed for the

next 18 years and Aerial Sprayed until 2005. Bill & Vernetta also raised & showed Registered Quarter Horses during these years. Bill began flying for Richland Aviation Inc in 1988 until Bill & Vernetta bought Servair West Inc. in 1994 a Part 135 Charter and FBO operation in Williston ND. They moved off the farm into Williston in 1995 and lived there until Vernetta's passing in Nov of 2005. Bill sold Servair West Inc. in the spring of 2007 and soon after his home. He met Karen Marsden from Rapid City SD and they married in June of 2007 and they built their dream house in Sturgis SD up in the Canyon at Apple Springs. He and Karen lived between Sturgis & Rapid City along with much travel and time in Pensacola until Karen's passing in Sept 2018. He moved to GA in Oct of 2018 to be near his only son & grandchildren.

Bill is preceded in Death by his parents Albert & Elizabeth Keyser, his wife of 42 years marriage Vernetta J (Nelson) Keyser, infant twin daughters, his wife Karen Marsden-Keyser of 12 years marriage. His in-laws Vernon & Eileen Nelson and several Aunts & Uncles. Bill is survived by his Son Robert V. Keyser & Jennifer of Newnan GA, his Grandson Derrek R. Keyser & Marissa of Smyrna GA, his Granddaughter Danielle E. Keyser & Matthew Woodie of Buford GA., Brother Richard Keyser of Frisco TX, Sister Beth Keyser of Plano TX, Nephew Ralph Keyser of Albuquerque NM, & Niece Betsy Keyser Schroeder of Plano TX.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory  
8355 Senoia Road  
Fairburn, GA 30213  
(770) 964-4800  
info@parrottfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.parrottfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Parrott Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William Charles Keyser



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**Parrott Funeral Home** - March 12, 2020 at 11:26 AM

CK

“ Growing up in Milton, Florida, our family saw our cousins often at their home on Lakeview Dr., Pensacola. My first airplane flight of my life was with Bill as the pilot and me beside him, just the two of us . I was 18 and he was 17 years old. We went over BAYOU TEXTER as our families were having a reunion at Aunt Edna's and Uncle James Adkinson's house. The last few times we visited with Bill and Karen was for a 4 day stay on Pensacola Beach and then an extended trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota staying in their lovely home for several days. They took us to Mt. Rushmore and other places of interest. --such wonderful memories. Our deepest sympathy to the family, Cousin Charles and Estella Kierce , Castroville, Texas

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**Charles Kierce** - March 12, 2020 at 01:18 PM



“ 91 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Parrott Funeral Home** - March 12, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of William Charles Keyser.



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March 12, 2020 at 01:59 AM



“ Grew up knowing Bill in Pensacola. Because both his parents and mine were best friends (took many road trips together) we were always 'connected'. I loved every minute I spent with Bill. Wish there had been more of them.

*Wynne Tompkins Young (and husband, Dave)*

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**Wynne Tompkins Young** - March 11, 2020 at 11:47 AM



Melanie Marsden

“ I will remember Bill fondly, he and I were the "early morning" coffee folks. He was content with Folgers Instant, but I insisted on "real" coffee, usually from Sturgis Coffee Company. He would share memories of Pensecola & flying or N.Dakota and flying or flying anywhere, sometimes we would talk about politics, business or any of a number of things. He was always a kind and gracious "taste tester" when I was cooking or baking.  
He loved my Mom and at times when I was "crossways' with her, he would quietly tell me that she was "a good woman" and took good care of him...I think his way of telling me to chill out. :-)  
He & Joe shared a love of tractors, we will never forget one of the first winters we were visiting and our #150 dog left a cow femur lying in the driveway...which Bill found when he was pushing the snowblower up the driveway and broke some sort of pin....he and Joe bonded while repairing that! My kids will forever be able to point out the important locations in the Pensecola History Book that Bill had.  
He will be missed by many.  
My prayers are with you as you grieve and recover.  
Sincerely,  
Melanie Marsden

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**Melanie Marsden** - March 11, 2020 at 10:34 AM

MF

“ Melanie & Joe, Val & Dave, Ken & Liz & families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Charles Keyser.



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**Melanie & Joe, Val & Dave, Ken & Liz & families** - March 11, 2020 at 10:23 AM

PH

“ Of all my years of living north of them I only knew his son. We road the same bus to School in Grenora. My thoughts & Prayers go out to Bob & his family.

Paulette (Denton) Houska - March 10, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Charles Keyser.



March 10, 2020 at 09:18 PM

DS

“ Bob Jennifer and family. We are so sorry for your loss. We had many great times with both Bill and Vernetta. Daryn's favorite story is his and Bills 3 day trip from Southern Mn to our farm in a 1940 Taylorcraft using a bic lighter to see the controls in the winter no less!! We will always cherish our memories!! Love you all

Daryn & Dottie Smith - March 10, 2020 at 06:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Charles Keyser.



March 10, 2020 at 06:35 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Charles Keyser.*



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March 10, 2020 at 05:02 PM



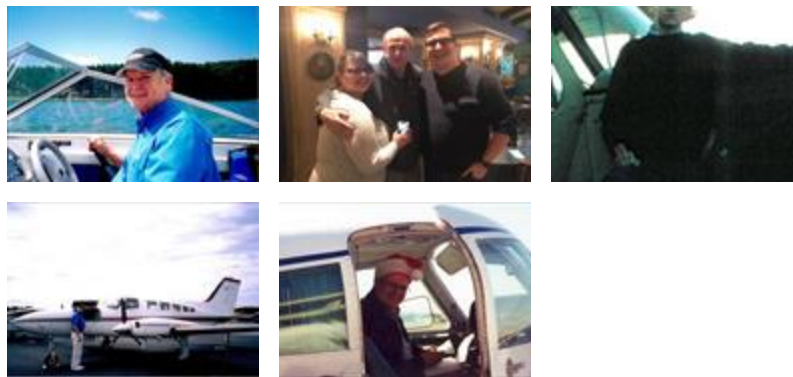
“ *Met Bill when he moved to Georgia & what a great man he was. His love for his son & grandchildren were very obvious. Bill shined when he saw them. He was so glad he decided to move to Atlanta. Bill & I have had many laughs & a few lunches together. My husband & I enjoyed his storytelling. He will be greatly missed. Gerry & Jack*

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**Gerry Conway** - March 10, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ *85 files added to the album William C Keyser*



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**Robert Keyser** - March 10, 2020 at 12:56 PM