

## Clayton Dean Keys

October 2, 1937 - August 2, 2017

Clayton Dean Keys, age 79, went to his heavenly home on Wednesday, August 2. Clayton was born October 2, 1937 to Maurice and Elizabeth Keys in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He graduated from College High School in 1955 and attended Oklahoma A & M and Northeastern A & M. He married Dorothy Kay Jones of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on November 22, 1963. He always had a love for horses and knew that he wanted a career in the horse industry.

In 1966 Clayton's career in equine industry began as the ranch manager at Stan-D Ranch in Beggs, Oklahoma. In the early 1970's he moved to Citation Farm in Jenks, Oklahoma where he stood the accomplished stallions Triple Chick and Mr. Meyers. In 1972 he was hired by the All-American Sales Company, now known as the Ruidoso Sales Company. He was with them until 1997. For most of the 70's and 80's his own sales company, Keys Sales Company, put on two sales a year at the Tulsa Fairgrounds and many dispersal and race sales. He also managed sales for many different companies, including Out Front Sales, Green Country Horse Sales, and Purcell Horse Sales. He was also part-owner of the Tulsa Holiday Circuit. Clayton worked with the Heritage Place Sales Company from the time they broke ground in 1978 until 2007 when he retired for health reasons. He was known for his honesty, fairness, and integrity. He was honored with a bronze bust in his image at Heritage Place in 2007 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame in 2013.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Kay, of the home, and his son Barry and

wife Kristi of Preston, Oklahoma. He has grandchildren Abbey Bandeh and husband Jamal of Tulsa, Hallie Smith of Dallas, and Jordan Smith of the home. He is also survived by two sisters, Carol Kellenberger and husband Keith of Plano, Texas and Lois Bass of Bartlesville, one brother Jay Lynn Keys and wife Kimi of Ramona, brother in law Bob Jones and wife Sandy, sister in law Bette Jones, nieces Brenda Snook and husband John, Kati Keys, nephews Ken Kellenberger and wife Natalie, Kelsey Keys, Darton Zink and wife Jamie, Tom Jones, and 9 great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and one nephew, Jayson Clayton Keys.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 pm on Sunday evening, August 6, 2017 at Stumpff Funeral Home in Bartlesville, and Pastor Stephen Carl will be presiding at services at the First Presbyterian Church, 505 S. Dewey in Bartlesville, at 2:00 pm on Monday, August 7, 2017. Interment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel  
1600 SE Washington Blvd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4300  
<http://www.Stumpff.org>

## Funeral Service

AUG 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
505 S.E. Dewey  
Bartlesville, OK 74003

# Tribute Wall



“ Clayton Dean Keys

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ Clayton Dean Keys

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



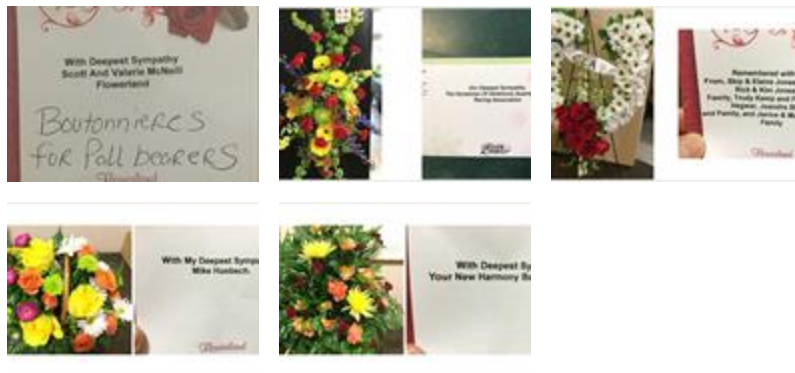
“ 3 files added to the album Flowers



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - August 07, 2017 at 01:00 PM



“ 41 files added to the album Flowers



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - August 07, 2017 at 11:34 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Clayton Dean Keys.*



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August 06, 2017 at 07:45 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Clayton Dean Keys.*



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August 06, 2017 at 07:40 PM



“ *I remember when Clayton and Mrs Keys as we called her first moved to Beggs. Mrs Keys was a very good teacher. She wanted her students to do good in class and also had discipline. Clayton was the manager of Stan D Ranch and would bring all the ranch hands in Lola's cafe for lunch. Clayton loved kids and you could him carrying someone little boy or girl going to the concession stand. The kids thought the suckers were very good until Clayton handed the child back to their parents. No baby wipes back in those days. Clayton and I have drank many a cup of coffee together. Lots of memories and stories I will never forget. Mrs. Keys you and your family are in my prayers. Jimmie Pilkington*

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**Jimmie Pilkington** - August 06, 2017 at 03:46 PM

JC

“ He was a great neighbor and always willing to lend a helping hand. Love and prayers to his family.



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**Julia Sumner Clayton** - August 06, 2017 at 12:34 PM

JW

“ I first met Clayton in 1979 or 1980 at the Heritage Place facility. He was first class then and for as long as I have known him. I admired him for the job he did being at all times a gentleman and doing all he could to help anyone. I am proud to have known him and call him a friend, may God bless his family during these trying times.  
Jerry Windham

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**Jerry P Windham** - August 05, 2017 at 05:37 PM

JB

“ Jack and Wynona Brooks purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Clayton Dean Keys.



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**Jack and Wynona Brooks** - August 05, 2017 at 02:35 PM

JW

“ Johnny and Louise Wells purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Clayton Dean Keys.



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**Johnny and Louise Wells** - August 05, 2017 at 11:01 AM

 Kati  
Keys

“ To my Uncle Clayton, thank you for always being there for me whether it be at livestock shows or 4-H fundraisers, basketball games, or softball games... you were there. You taught me the ends and outs of the horse racing business, made me the official pooper scooper at the Heritage Place, took me to the office to have coffee with "the guys", teased me mercifully, and supported me no matter what I pursued in life. You are in a better place now but you will be missed dearly! You were the best, I love you Uncle Clayton!

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**Kati Keys** - August 05, 2017 at 10:31 AM

 KS

“ My sincere sympathy to all of Clayton's family. I remember when I was younger and we use to have the big King Family Reunion, I always was awestruck by his tall stature and good looks.

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**Kathy Seigel** - August 05, 2017 at 09:02 AM

 BV

“ When I started at Heritage Place in 1977, the first thing I did was find out about Clayton and got him on board to assist me with the sales. I finer man there could not have been. Bob Vantrease

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**Bob Vantrease** - August 04, 2017 at 04:01 AM

 BG

“ Mrs. Keys and Family,

*May the Lord Bless You, Protect You and Keep You.  
May He Surround You With His Divine Comfort.  
May He Bestow Within You His Perfect Peace.*

*Sincerest Sympathies,*

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**B. Davis Gentry** - August 03, 2017 at 08:42 PM