



## Keith G. Mines

November 15, 1930 - February 21, 2021

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Keith George Mines, who died Sunday at Bethany Home in Lindsborg, was born Nov. 15, 1930, on a cold winter's night in a farmhouse near Oberlin, Kansas.

It was the midst of the Great Depression, and his parents, Cecil and Anne Mines, were not prepared for a twin brother appearing moments later. They put the babies in a makeshift incubator – shoeboxes inside a wooden drawer – on the stove to stay warm. The twins had two older sisters, Patricia and Delphine; the oldest child, Billy Chris, had died at birth.

The family soon moved to a farm near Cedar Bluffs, where Keith attended Beaver Creek country school until eighth grade. Decatur County High School in Oberlin was 12 miles away so the twins boarded in town during the week, returning to the farm on weekends to help out. They both excelled in multiple sports, most notably wrestling, and Keith was salutatorian of his graduating class in 1948.

Keith attended Kansas State for a year before marrying his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Jo Frickey, at the Methodist Church in Oberlin on Oct. 15, 1950. The newlyweds moved to Denver where Keith worked at Remington Rand Office Equipment.

He enlisted in the Air Force in 1952 and was stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. An aptitude test there uncovered a talent for accounting, which proved to be the beginning of a long, successful career. Their first child, Cynthia Jo, was born at the base hospital on March 26, 1955.

After Sgt. Mines, who received a medal for good conduct, was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1956, he returned to Kansas State, determined to get a degree in accounting. He was inducted into Alpha Kappa Psi, the professional business fraternity, and named the top accounting student at Kansas State by the Wall Street Journal.

He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting and passed all parts of the CPA on the first try. He accepted a position on the commercial audit staff with one of the country's top accounting firms, Arthur Andersen, and the family moved to the Kansas City area in 1958. They had two more children there: Michael Keith, in 1958, and Lynda Lea, in 1959.

Keith's promotion to manager in 1963 meant much longer hours and more travel, taking him away from his family, so he accepted a position with Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance in McPherson in 1964. They found small-town life more to their liking, and Keith volunteered as a little league baseball coach and with Boy Scout Troop #133. He and Marilyn joined McPherson's Methodist Church and enjoyed bowling leagues and bridge clubs.

He founded his own CPA firm in 1968 and continued to work at the career he loved until age 78 when an extended illness forced "early" retirement. Throughout his life, he upheld the highest ethical standards, both professionally and personally, and was known for his patience, kindness and generosity.

After losing his beloved wife in 1993, his affectionate nature focused on his six grandchildren, taking them to Disneyland, Worlds of Fun, Kansas City Royals' games and Silver Dollar City. He taught them to ride bicycles and never tired of playing tennis or miniature golf with them, and made sure his "candy drawer" was well stocked before they visited.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Rowena Anne (Wilson) Mines; wife, Marilyn Frickey Mines; and siblings Billy Chris Mines, Patricia Carswell, Delphine Spencer and Kyle Mines.

Survivors include children Cynthia Mines (Toby Stucky), Michael Mines (Janice) and Lynda Bickel (Greg); grandchildren Kelli Smith (Jeff), Tyler Bickel (Kathleen), Amy Bickel, Andrew Mines (Jenny), John Mark Mines (Kendall) and Lyndsey Bickel as well as step grandchildren Sara Stucky and Erica Ruzicka (Mark), three great granddaughters, three step grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation (masks required) is 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at Glidden-Ediger Funeral Home in McPherson. Private burial will take place at McPherson Cemetery with celebration of life planned for later this year. Memorials may be made to Bethany Home in care of Glidden-Ediger Funeral Home.



# Cemetery

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# Events

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## McPherson Cemetery

1601 Cemetery Drive

McPherson, KS,

**FEB**

**24**

**Visitation**

04:00PM - 06:00PM

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Glidden - Ediger Chapel

222 West Euclid Street, McPherson, KS, US, 67460

# Comments

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“ Keith Mines was a great man. I worked for him for 4 years in the 1970s. I am a better man because of Keith (Accounting and Life)

John Creed

john creed - March 10 at 02:20 PM

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“ Dear Family of Keith Mines,

We were sorry to hear of Keith's passing away. Cindy, we especially have been thinking of you, classmate to our son, Ken Cotton. He was a fine man. Please accept our Deepest Sympathy. H. Dean and Esther Cotton

H. Dean and Esther Cotton - February 26 at 08:59 PM



“ Thank you so much, Dean and Esther. I definitely remember you both as well as Ken. Warm wishes to you all, Cindy

Cynthia - February 27 at 08:44 PM

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“ I am saddened to hear of the passing of Keith Mines. My sympathies extend to his children and grandchildren.

Keith was my first professional mentor. He introduced me to the accounting profession and invested a lot of time in me. While attending McPherson College, Keith and Marilyn gave me my first accounting job. Keith taught with patience and helped create opportunities for me. As I reflect on his counsel and advice, I realize Keith gave counsel that was in my best interests, not what was best for him or his accounting practice. He put others before himself including his family that he loved. I am forever grateful for his character, examples and unselfish advice. As described by his family, he truly was a patient, kind and generous person.

Thank you, Keith for all you gave to me and many others.

Sincerely,

Dale Classen  
Salem, Oregon

**Dale A Classen** - February 25 at 03:28 PM



“ Dale, thank you so much for sharing those memories. I'm compiling them as a booklet for the family. Hope you're doing well. Best wishes, Cindy

**Cynthia** - February 27 at 08:46 PM



“ We were saddened to learn of Keith's passing. We met him when we moved to McPherson in 1982. He became like family to us over the years and was a wonderful, kind and sincere counselor to us over the years. We will miss him.

Sincere condolences. Cindy to you and the family. God bless.

**jerry and disne davies** - March 16 at 03:32 AM



“ Jerry and Disne Davies

**jerry and diane davies** - March 16 at 03:33 AM

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“ Over 20 years ago I was working at a funeral home, but I wanted to buy my own place. I was told that Keith Mines was the most knowledgeable accountant in Kansas, on the topic of funeral homes. I called him up, told him that he was recommended as someone who could help me determine what a business might be worth. He happily took me under his wing. I found a funeral home for sale. I acquired the financial statements from the seller. He showed me, taught me, how to take that data and analyze it to determine a business value/fair price. I looked at several funeral homes. After the first one, I did the data analysis and I would send him my findings/opinions for him to review. We would visit about my analysis and he refined my knowledge of the task to the extent that I became very confident. Keith usually worked late into the night. I worked long hours also. By the time I got home from work spent time with kids and family, etc, it was never before 9pm that I was able to spend time on the financial analysis at hand. We had many many late night conversations about business, finance, contract negotiations, kids, current events, etc. I expressed to others many times, how fortunate I was to find the help I needed and from someone who was available at such odd hours that fit my crazy schedule.

One time we spent countless hours on a deal, only to have the seller pull the plug at the last possible moment. Some time had passed and Keith had never sent me a bill. I asked him for one. He said, "I'll bill you when you buy a funeral home". I replied that it was looking iffy. Several prospects had not been a good fit for one reason or another. We had spent a lot of time on them. I had yet to pay him a penny. He didn't flinch. He said "You'll find one. I know you will."

It took a few years, and lots of searching, for me to find the right fit and make my purchase. And he never billed me until the deal was done.

Keith was old school. He worked ledgers by hand. I asked about me using Excel or Quickbooks. He said you'll understand it better if you learn it by hand (of course, he was right). He would get dressed up to come calling for our twice a year meeting. (He would drive to Missouri for us to go over the books) I told him there was no reason for him to travel all that way in a suit and tie. But he replied, "I need to wear the proper uniform".

I haven't seen Keith, or talked to him, in several years, since he retired. But I think of him often. I think of when I was an adventurous young man looking for financial advice and I found so much more, a loving, crusty owl who would tell it straight, and a friend who was always there when I needed to talk, had confidence in me and made me a better person.

**Chris Kaiser** - February 24 at 04:10 PM



“ Chris, thank you so much for sharing those memories. I'm compiling them so the rest of the family can have copies. Where did you end up and where are you living now? Thanks again and best wishes, Cindy

**Cynthia** - February 27 at 08:50 PM



“ Chris (and Cynthia), Thank you for taking the time to write a beautiful reminder of a man I considered "a second father". I loved Keith G. Mines. He helped me from before our first acquisition to the sale of my business in 1998. Keith never billed me until much later (but I never called him for a statement). This is in comparison to my CPA in 2021 who billed me

by email before I had ever reached home. Keith and I had many late night talks and it breaks my heart that I didn't know all about Keith's personal life until reading about his facinating birth in his obituary. I am glad you were able to buy your funeral home, Chris. My number in 913 649 2552, if you ever want to chat. Cynthia, pleaser know you are in my thoughts. i miss your father and our chats. He made me feel like a son. God Bless Him!  
~jeff newcomer

**Jeffrey. Jay Newcomer** - April 15 at 12:30 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Keith G. Mines.



February 24 at 03:03 PM

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“ Rod & Deb Spencer and family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Keith G. Mines.



**Rod & Deb Spencer and family** - February 24 at 12:43 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Keith G. Mines.



February 24 at 10:58 AM

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“ Keith was a great mentor for me. I was privileged to have begun my accounting career under his guidance. He was also a very devoted husband and father. My condolences to his children and their families.

Stephen L. Zodrow, Oberlin, KS

Stephen Zodrow - February 24 at 09:43 AM



“ Thank you, Steve, thanks for your condolences.  
Best wishes, Cindy

Cynthia - February 27 at 08:51 PM

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“ Misty Rae lit a candle in memory of Keith G. Mines



Misty Rae - February 23 at 10:43 PM



“ Thank you

Cynthia - February 27 at 08:51 PM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Keith G. Mines.



February 23 at 05:56 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Keith G. Mines.



February 23 at 04:24 PM

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“ The DFW Church Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Keith G. Mines.



The DFW Church Family - February 23 at 02:50 PM

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“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Keith G. Mines.



February 22 at 11:32 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Keith G. Mines.



February 22 at 09:37 PM