



Paul A. Keenan Obituary

November 15, 1920 - April 4, 2011

Paul Keenan was born on November 15, 1920 in Albany, son of P.A. and Martha (Mattie) Wilkerson Keenan. He graduated from Albany High School in 1937; from Baylor School, Chattanooga, TN in 1938; from Emory University in 1942. He served both in the enlisted forces and as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II and returned to Emory to obtain a law degree. Paul met his future wife, Lucile Dennison Wells, in an early morning law school class. On July 7, 1948, he and Lucile married, and he welcomed her daughter Jere into the Keenan family. He and G. Stuart Watson, old Emory classmates and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity brothers, formed the Albany law firm Watson & Keenan in 1948. As years passed, the declining health of P.A. Keenan, Paul's father, pulled him into the senior Keenan's business affairs, and he left the law firm to head up Keenan Auto Parts, Co. and its affiliates, currently units of the CARQUEST organization. Elected to the Dougherty County Commission in 1965 and made its chairman by vote of that body, Keenan faced the fact that Albany and Dougherty County were not eligible to share any federal funds for street and highway construction or improvement. A planning agency with a qualified director in a funded office was required. The county commission authorized Keenan to invite the city commission to join in establishing such an agency and funding an office and director. Albany accepted. Paul Keenan was elected Mayor of Albany in 1993 and re-elected two years later, so serving during the flood of 1994, the greatest natural disaster in Albany history. He was a longtime member of the Albany Kiwanis Club and St. Paul's Episcopal

Church. He is survived by his wife, Lucile Dennison Keenan, daughter Jere Wells Keenan Brands and her husband Harold, sons William Paul Keenan, Alexander Stuart Keenan, and Dr. David Louis Keenan and his wife Kelly; grandchildren Ed, David and Peter Brands, John and Jean Keenan, Bill, Kyle, Caroline and Colleen Keenan; great-grandchildren Lucile Roze and Cyrus Paul Bransel. He is also survived by his daughter-in-law Fran Knight; his brother Walter R. Keenan and his wife Mary, brother-in-law Dr. David Dennison and his wife Katharine, sister-in-law Jean Dennison Brooks, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul A. Keenan Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Paul A. Keenan Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *I'm sorry to hear about the death of Mr. Keenan. I send my condolences to the family.*

monique - May 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *A wonderful man. He will be missed by many.*

Adalyn Smith Watts - May 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I started my career with Service Parts Warehouse in 1978. Mr. Keenan provided me with many opportunities growing my career in the automotive aftermarket. 2011 marks 33 years in the aftermarket, I am working with CARQUEST/GPI. I owe so much of my career direction to Mr. Keenana and the Management teams of Keenan Auto Parts. I tried to attend the memorial service and had airline problems in Atlanta. I will miss Mr. Keenan but hold him special to my life. Sincerely, William Humber*

William Humber - May 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GO

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Keenan Family for the lost of a great man that will be truly missed.*

Gloria Odom - April 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Jere, we're thinking of you and praying for you and your family!!!*

Janice & Tommy Tanner - April 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *I appreciate all he did for the city of Albany. My condolences to his family. God bless.*

Jan Robinson - April 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *For nine years I had the pleasure of Mr. Keenan greeting me and my co-workers with a tip of his brow and a soft spoken "good morning". He was a true southern gentlemen devoted to serving Albany and her citizens.*

Susan Dowdell Smith - April 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM