



## Mr. Walter Ralph Keenan

February 12, 1922 - July 5, 2020

Walter Ralph Keenan was born at the corner of Highland and Madison avenues in Albany in February 1922. A memorable early experience was working as a 16 year-old baggage boy on a convoy of busses to take Georgia girls for a 2 month tour of the West Coast and Canada. He started at Albany High School but graduated from the Baylor School in Chattanooga in 1940 and attended Georgia Tech before going into the Navy as a pilot where he flew PB4Y patrol planes off the West Coast. As a cadet he brought a Wright 19 trainer plane back with a flaming engine problem that had killed 122 cadets and 63 instructors (Army AF had lost more) so that the problem was able to be identified and corrected (broadcast radio would short out the starter and cause overheating). In November 1944 he married Mary Chazal of Ocala, Florida after deciding to marry her before he even had a date with her. They were married for 71 years. After the war his jobs included farming, Keenan Auto Parts and starting businesses such as Keenan Welding Supplies (now Airgas on Gillionville Road) and Keenan Transfer & Storage. He was active in the Albany Chamber of Commerce and served as president. He is uniquely remembered by his children for having taken all five children and mother on four seven-week trips – three across the US and Canada in a station wagon and one through the Bahamas by boat.

He is preceded in death by parents Mattie Wilkerson Keenan and Paul A. Keenan, brother Paul A. Keenan, Jr., his “wonderful wife” Mary Chazal Keenan, and son-in-law Tom Richardson. He is survived by children Jake

"Pat" Keenan, Anne "Analee" Keenan of Somerville, Massachusetts, Mike (Sue) Keenan of Albany, Mary Meurisse Richardson of Herndon, Virginia, and Mark (Meg) Keenan of San Carlos, California and by grandchildren Jesse (Kristen) Keenan of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Nathan (Lindsey) Keenan of Arcata, California, Andrew Richardson of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Julie Richardson of Herndon, Virginia, Dominick Keenan of San Carlos, California, and step grandchild Eric Griswold (Natalie) of Alpharetta, Georgia and by great grandchildren Alder Keenan and just-born boy of Arcata, California and step great grandchild Kathleen Griswold of Alpharetta. He is a member of St. Teresa's church.

There will be no services at this time.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to St. Teresa's Catholic Church or St. Teresa's Catholic School, 421 Edgewood Dr. Albany, GA 31707.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Walter Ralph Keenan*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. Walter Ralph Keenan*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *I was honored to work with such a great man in his last days. I was expecting to come back from my trip and tell him all about it. He was very strong until the end. Drinking his 5'ock cocktail, talking to his wonderful kids and telling war stories carried me through my 12 hour days. 😊*

**Stacey Axon** - July 09, 2020 at 04:06 AM



*Thank you so much for all your kind help, Stacey.  
- from Mary, one of his daughters*

**Mary M Richardson** - July 11, 2020 at 01:58 PM

JM

“ From the time I was 3 years old until I went off to college there was hardly a day in my life that didn't involve the Keenans. Pat (Jake) and I really grew up together. So many memories of running through the bushes between our houses. No locked doors. Mrs. Keenan was usually in the kitchen saying, “Come on in!” Mr. Keenan was often in the den reading, sitting next to an enormous world globe. I always wanted one just like it. He would stand, and with a huge smile say, “ How are you doing today?” Always the gentleman. I always felt at home at the Keenans. I miss all of you. Your parents were the best

*Jane Scherberger Mahoney*

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**Jane Scherberger Mahoney** - July 08, 2020 at 05:47 PM

MR

*That's so sweet, Jane. Thank you so much. I have many similar memories running in and out playing at your house. Good to hear from you. -Mary M.*

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**Mary M Richardson** - July 11, 2020 at 02:01 PM

JS

“ Sometimes I can't decide if I grew up next door to the Keenan's or if I grew up next door at the Keenan's. What I do know, is those were special times spent together with my oldest friends, the entire Walter Keenan family, and especially with Mike who remains the dearest friend I've ever had, except for my wife Eileen. I thought the world of Mr. Keenan and will never forget him looking me in the eye and telling me to let him know if I ever needed anything, ever, following the death of my mother. One of his favorite expressions when parting ways was to waive goodbye, almost a salute, and wish you "good luck". I consider it my "very good luck" to have known Mr. Keenan.

Joe Scherberger

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**Joe Scherberger** - July 08, 2020 at 05:21 PM

MR

Oh Joe, that brings tears to my eyes. You are so sweet. Thank you so much for taking the time to share all that. It's really special. Hope you are well. Take good care. -Mary M.

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**Mary M Richardson** - July 11, 2020 at 02:07 PM

EC

“ That 'Greatest Generation' have been leaving us and there is a void. My sincere sympathy for your loss. Be sure to record your memories of your interesting parents for posterity. They were a sweet couple.

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**Elizabeth Champion** - July 06, 2020 at 09:23 PM

PR

“ Prayers to Analee and family on the loss of your father. I have so many fond memories of your family. Pam Hendley Rowe

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**Pam Hendley Rowe** - July 06, 2020 at 07:54 PM

AK

*Thank you so much Pam for your kind note. I am trying to locate an email or other contact info for you. Analee*

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**Anne Keenan** - July 17, 2020 at 12:35 AM

CD

“ *Mike and sue. Another great Albany businessman. Well done my good and faithful servant. Bless your extended family.*

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**Chuck Darsey** - July 06, 2020 at 09:48 AM

TG

“ *Mike, please accept our condolences. You were all fortunate to have had your dad so long. Ted and Marilyn Gibson*

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**Ted Gibson** - July 06, 2020 at 07:03 AM

JS

“ *Sorry for your loss. Mr. Keenan was fine man.*

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**J. Scott Stephenson** - July 06, 2020 at 02:26 AM

NR

“ *Mike and Sue  
Another great Albanian gone. My parents loved your family. Hugs and love.*

*Nancy Reimer*

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**Nancy Reimer** - July 05, 2020 at 08:20 PM

CR

“ *Pat and Mike,  
So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you both and remembering good times together from years back. Pat, you were literally the only person I cared to know about from our class post- high school. Delighted much later to learn you'd lived and worked in Africa as I did as Habitat for Humanity's first ever volunteer. Mike, great birding memories. Hope we can bird together again in the near future when I hope to return to Americus after ten years in Guatemala.*

*May good memories of your dad live on.*

*Clive Rainey, San Lucas Toliman Guatemala*

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**Clive Rainey** - July 05, 2020 at 08:18 PM

AH

“ *Jake/Pat, I'm so sorry about your dad. You were a good son. My condolences to the family.*

*Anita Hudgens*

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**Anita M Hudgens** - July 05, 2020 at 03:57 PM