



Cyril "Cy" Keller

April 8, 1922 - October 28, 2020

Cyril "Cy" Keller, 98, of Fergus Falls, died Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls.

Cyril Nicholas Keller was born April 8, 1922 to Joseph and Agnes (Koziel) Keller. He attended country school through 8th grade near his home. At the age of 20, Cyril joined the Navy where he served as a cook on a Naval Ship and later on the island of Saipan. After serving 3 ½ years, he returned home and began working at a foundry in Fergus Falls.

On October 20, 1948, Cyril was united in marriage to Myrtle (Myrt) Budke at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Fergus Falls. At approximately the same time of his marriage to Myrt, he began working for his uncle Anton in Elbow Lake where he and Myrt built their first home.

In 1953, he joined his brother Louis' business, Keller Welding, in Rothsay, Minnesota. They both worked together and in 1956/57 designed and fabricated the first "Keller Self Propelled Loader." Patent was applied for and granted shortly thereafter. Manufacturing rights for the loader went to Melroe Manufacturing Company in Gwinner, ND shortly after displaying the loader at the 1958 Minnesota State Fair. Both Louis and Cyril then went to work for Melroe Manufacturing Company to manage the fabrication of the first "Melroe Self Propelled Loader." They then continued to support the selling and improving of this loader which soon evolved into what is known worldwide as the Bobcat Skidsteer Loader. Cyril then took to the road setting up dealerships throughout the United States. His travels eventually included flying across the ocean to countries like England, Germany, and Italy.

Throughout the many years of travel, Cyril and Myrt raised their family of eight children. Eventually they moved to Gwinner, ND where Cyril ran a school, training new dealers how to efficiently run the Bobcat. Schools were set up where he would spend six months in Gwinner and six months in San Antonio, Texas, where he ran a tight ship and eventually became known as "Sarge."

On his time off, Cyril enjoyed hunting and fishing trips to Canada, Alaska, and the Great Lakes. He and Myrt also purchased a lake home on Otter Tail Lake where his family enjoyed many years of summer fun.

In retirement, Cyril continued tinkering in his shop and inventing, obtaining patents on the Rollabed, rattle reel, and squirrel feeder.

Cyril's deep and abiding faith, strong work ethic, and unfailing honesty and integrity set an example for his children and grandchildren to live up to and strive for. His counsel and advice were always sought after and were always thoughtfully given. He had a zest for life and was happy up until the moment on October 28, 2020 the Lord wrapped his loving arms around Cyril and called him home. This amazing quality inspired everyone around him.

He is survived by his two sons, Allen (Becky) Keller and Gary (Lola) Keller; six daughters, Sharon (Mick) Maddock, Linda (Dan) Bettin, Dawn (Joe) Johnson, Bonnie (Curt) Kretchman, Jane (Grant) Tweed, and Ann (Mark) Foner; 23 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Edward Keller and Daniel (Janice) Keller, and three sisters, Eleanor Olson, Mary (Ralph) Carlson, and Audrey Johnson.

Cyril was preceded in death by his wife, Myrtle; parents, Joe and Agnes Keller; brother, Louis; seven sisters, Tillie, Janice, Regina, Rita, Irene, Grace, and Dorothy, and special friend, Marjorie Scheidecker.

Memorials are preferred to donor's choice.

Walk-through Visitation: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Fergus Falls. There will be a 6:30 p.m. Rosary and a 7:00 p.m. prayer service.

Mass of Christian Burial will be a private family service, with a Live-stream at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Please refer to the Funeral Home website and Cyril's Tribute Wall for a link to the live-stream.

Clergy: Father Alan Wielinski and Father Patrick Hoeft

Interment: St. Otto Catholic Cemetery, Fergus Falls, MN

Military Participation: Fergus Falls American Legion Post 612 and VFW Post 30

Arrangements are provided by the Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls.

Online condolences may be sent to <http://www.olsonfuneralhome.com>

Cemetery

St. Otto's Catholic Cemetery

Fergus Falls, MN,

Events

NOV 3 Walk Through Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
207 North Vine Street, Fergus Falls, MN, US

NOV 3 Rosary 06:30PM

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
207 North Vine Street, Fergus Falls, MN, US

NOV 3 Prayer Service 07:00PM

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
207 North Vine Street, Fergus Falls, MN, US

NOV 4 Live Stream Service 11:00AM

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
207 North Vine Street, Fergus Falls, MN, US

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Olson Funeral Home - October 30, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ Cyril has held a special place in my heart since I worked for He and Louis at the shop in Rothsay. They taught me how to weld and make things, a hobby that I enjoyed most of my life. While working for them my car blew a piston. Cy Showed me how to repair it myself. He helped me push it into the shOp after work and tell me what to do and then helped push it back out the next day. This went on until it was fixed, each evening telling me how to do the next step. He was a great teacher and special friend. May he rest in peace!

Jim Schneider - October 31, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ We had the pleasure of meeting Cy through my Aunt Margie Scheidecker. When we were in Fergus Falls visiting, conversation with him came so easily as we always talked about Melroe/Bobcat (now Doosan) in Bismarck, ND, where we live. We entertained him and Margie briefly at our home when he did a presentation at the University of Mary in Bismarck in April 2015. Sincere condolences and peace and comfort to all your family.

Cheryl & Bo Miller - November 02, 2020 at 12:24 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Service Folder



Olson Funeral Home - November 09, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ Cy was very interesting to visit with about fishing and equipment, after our family visited the lake for one of your reunions I got interested in the early Bobcats and was able to buy one . Ryan Gilbertson



Ryan Gilbertson - November 04, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ Jessica Neuleib lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



jessica neuleib - November 03, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ My mom & dad, Merle & Emily Scott, enjoyed many years of friendship with the Kellers & their group of friends. There was much laughter - bowling, playing cards, Sundays at the lake playing games & potluck meals together. Just recently, Cyril called my dad “Scotty”. I’m so glad they were able to visit one last time by phone. Rest in piece Cyril.

Mary Scott - November 03, 2020 at 08:02 AM



“ Tereasa Link lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Tereasa Link - November 02, 2020 at 09:17 PM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Cy when he joined my mother and I for lunch one day at Park Gardens last year, what a charmer! On another day he greeted visitors at the front lobby with mischievous play of a remote controlled bobcat running around on the floor. He always had a smile and witty greeting for me and often thanked me for bringing him a carton of buttermilk one day. My condolences and prayers for his family, and I rejoice he has entered his heavenly home with our Lord and Savior.

Tereasa Link - November 02, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ My sympathy to the Keller families. I always enjoyed working with Cy. He always had a positive attitude and had a lot of energy. He was part of a product that changed the world.. I think he got about everything he could get out of life. I will always remember him with very fond memories.

Sylvan Melroe

Sylvan Melroe - November 02, 2020 at 09:02 PM



“ Oh the memories, I wouldn't know where to start. I always felt blessed, being one of the "older cousins" and getting to spend more time with the aunts and uncles at a younger age, before life got busy. Cy was a treat, as were all the aunts and uncles. So appreciated Myrt and Cy's hospitality for the many family reunions at the lake and home. Deb and I stopped at the lake once impromptu with picked strawberries. I didn't realize Cy was allergic to strawberries and won't forget the sparkle in Myrt's eyes because she didn't have to share. When we left, Cy told me to drive nice because I had Deb along. God bless the memory of Cy and God bless Cy's family.

Dale and Deb Budke - November 02, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ I accompanied my parents, Leonard and InaMae Gilbertson and my siblings to a family reunion 15 plus years ago. We very much enjoyed the visit with Cyril And the family at his lake property. Even then his mind was still creating as he showed us the roll-out pickup bed and a lawn game. Then we stopped at Gwinner for a tour of the Melroe plant on our way back to North Dakota!

Sharon Gilbertson Jenson - November 02, 2020 at 07:05 PM



“ The Sargent County Historical Society in North Dakota would like to extend our sincere condolences to the family. Cyril was always laughing and a bright moment for us all when he would visit our Museum in Forman. We will not forget what he gave this area and this nation. The Bobcat Loader will be know for years to come. We also know the "Bobcat Twist"! Such a happy, friendly and unforgettable man.

Pat Olofson - November 02, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ What a beautiful man of God Cy was, such a great example to all of us with his enthusiastic spirit. I love remembering him saying when I'd ask how he was. he would always reply, "If I were any better, I'd be dangerous."



Mary Jo Baez - November 02, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ Marci King lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Marci King - November 02, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ Rest easy Cy.

Lennart Berry - November 02, 2020 at 09:51 AM



“ Uncle Cyril was the best! We will cherish our memories with him, and have missed seeing him at 'coffee and rolls' after Sunday Mass. He always had a smile and a hug! Someone up there at the 'pearly gates" will probably ask him how he is doing, and you know his reply will be, " If I was any better, I'd be dangerous!"

Bob and Julie Budke and Family - November 02, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ We will so miss Cy! He was a great example of living his faith with a smile. He always had time to visit, a joke and a good laugh. He truly cared about others. May he rest in peace.



Gene and Amy - November 01, 2020 at 05:13 PM



“ To The Family of Cyril Keller

I want to offer my sincere condolences to all of you. His memory, positive words and happy, joyful spirit is something that I and many others will always remember.

I really wish I could go to the Rosary and service for Cyril but due to all the covid around I will not be able to attend. I will watch the live stream funeral service for him and keep you all in prayer.

I remember the times he stayed with us in Gwinner before the family moved there. He was always a bright spot at the supper table to share our meal with and listen to. When we went to visit Cyril, Myrt and the family in Rothsay it was always a good time.

They had the tallest tree with longest ropes attached to the most fun swing ever! I always wondered how he got those ropes up so high - maybe he used the Bobcat.
May He Rest In Peace

Mary (Keller) Anderson - November 01, 2020 at 02:34 PM



“ Thank You Cy from all the owners and operators of Bobcats. We couldn't done the work without invention. Condolences to his family and friends.

Joe - November 01, 2020 at 09:51 AM



“ Ramona Long lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Ramona Long - October 31, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ Sympathies to all of Cy’s family...
Bob and Crystal Asche



Crystal Asche - October 31, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ Kathy & Bob Warn lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Kathy & Bob Warn - October 31, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ Thank you Keller Family for sharing such a beautiful man. Cy was a true channel of Our Father's Love, Joy, and Peace.
May our good Lord comfort you with the love of all those whom care for you.
Thank you Cy for more than what words can express! Thank you for being you!! A God fearing man that so very many of us loved and look up to... and when we watched you we seen Our Father's beautiful creation.
From how we remove snow to watching squirrels get tossed into the air, your hands have forever changed our lives for the better. But it truly is the heart and character of this man that make the many memories joyes.
The Lord used two brothers hands so that Israel would indeed be built back up in one generation. Amazing to ponder how close we really are to Our Fathers work in progress.
With sincere condolences, agape love, and sincere desire for peace upon this family.
All eyes on Him,
Derek and Jennifer Christopherson and Family



Derek Christopherson - October 31, 2020 at 09:51 AM



“ Sharon and family - am so sad to hear of your dad's passing. From the time Sharon and I were at NDSCS until when my mom moved into Park Gardens, I have been blessed with his smile. My mom's first day at the gardens he stopped and welcomed her and we renewed my and her friendship. I will miss seeing him when I visit mom. Please know that my and her prayers are with you and your family.

Becky Seelhammer Pearson

Becky Seelhammer Pearson - October 31, 2020 at 09:19 AM



“ Linda, Dan and family so very sorry to read about Cyril. I think I told you that my dad spoke so highly of him and loved to reminisce about the early days. What a wonderful legacy. Sincere condolences. Theresa (Wicklein) French

Theresa French - October 31, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ Bob And Kathy Nordick lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Bob and Kathy Nordick - October 31, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Connie Torgerson lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Connie Torgerson - October 30, 2020 at 08:50 PM



“ Paul and Judy Sonmor , Paul loved Cy Keller they got along great, blessed be the memory of Cy Keller. A great invented of the bobcat. Amazing.

paul@judy sonmor - October 30, 2020 at 08:23 PM



“ Jane Grant Brady Cassie Gavin and all of Cy's family; our deepest sympathies we express to you! What a grand example Cy was to us all on how to live life to the fullest, use his gifted talents, and placing his God as #1. Cy and Myrtle blessed this earth with a wonderful family! May God grant you all his Peace!

~Love, Brad and Cindy Tweed

Cindy - October 31, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ Bert Sandy Overland lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Bert Sandy Overland - October 30, 2020 at 07:36 PM



“ I really got to know Cy through Bible Study at OLV! He was such a special man! I am so blessed to know him. I brought some lefsa to him at Park Gardens once and loved the smile that he blessed me with.

Barb Rick - October 30, 2020 at 07:29 PM



“ Craig & Janelle Scheidecker lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Craig & Janelle Scheidecker - October 30, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ Louise Wentworth lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Louise Wentworth - October 30, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ Marcy Otto-Schuetze lit a candle in memory of Cyril "Cy" Keller



Marcy Otto-Schuetze - October 30, 2020 at 03:18 PM