

KEITH WATKINS MEMORIAL

Keith Watkins fearlessly succumbed to his 8-year battle with cancer on November 21, 2011. Keith was a gentle and caring man who loved God, his family, music, sports, many friends, and life itself. His mottos were “Life is Good” and “Every Day is a Good Day”. To Keith these were not just words but honest beliefs, even as he battled multiple illnesses in the final decade of his life.

Keith was born on March 19, 1953 in South Dakota. Keith’s father was a minister which took the family to multiple rural locations, including Pemberville, Ohio. In part due to his “country” upbringing Keith developed a love of camping, fishing and the outdoors.

Keith attended the University of Toledo College of Law; graduating in 1981. Keith spent his entire career in private practice in the Toledo area; ultimately retiring in 2010 for health reasons.

Keith was married for 27 years to his beloved wife, Paula. Keith and Paula raised three cherished children; Adam, Angela and Andrew. Campfire music, sports, and mandatory prayer at dinner time were hallmarks of the Watkins family experience.

Keith’s priorities in life were faith first, family second, and work third. Because of those priorities Keith threw himself into various forms of ministry including playing his beloved guitar and singing in church and frequently participating in youth camps where he would teach and counsel children. Keith was always known to be a devoted family man and never missed an opportunity for a family outing including camping trips.

Keith was passionate about his sports which he played both with family and friends. Even during his illness Keith’s demeanor remained confident and optimistic. Keith was a non-confrontational, low-key gentleman in his personal and professional life. As an attorney Keith

was a skilled analyst and writer. He dealt with complex legal issues in state and federal courts, including Courts of Appeals and the State Supreme Court. His colleagues likely remember him first and foremost as a man of his word, and as an advocate who could advance his client's interests without a trace of rancor or duplicity.

Keith had a giving heart and changed lives in a positive way. In the words of his wife, Paula, "Keith was truly a servant to his family, friends, or anyone around him". His family and friends rejoice in the comfort of knowledge that Keith, having "finished the race", is now seated at the campfire, playing his guitar for his Lord, a flame that burns forever.