



Obituary

Died: Thursday, March 25, 2021

Keith Oviatt, age 82, was called to his heavenly home March 25th, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents Grace and Ernest (Rook) Oviatt. Keith began his Faith and Service Life in Irvine where the community in general and the “Stone Church” in particular provided Biblical training and nurtured his love of local history. He served on the Church council for 18 years and was instrumental in building the Sunday School building in 1967 and its addition in 2005. He helped maintain Church buildings and grounds most of his life.

Keith graduated from Youngsville High School and then Edinboro University where he obtained degrees in both Social Studies and Elementary Education and met his wife, Joanne. They were married for 59 years and have two sons, Brian/Nan, Brent/Chris, and one grandson, Benjamin/Catherine. Many surviving cousins also blessed his life.

Service Summary

Visitation

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Thu Apr 01, 2021

Irvine Presbyterian Church

National Forge Rd.
Irvine, Pa. 16329

Memorial Service

3:00 PM Thu Apr 01, 2021

Irvine Presbyterian Church

National Forge Rd.
Irvine, Pa. 16329

“Mr. O’s” teaching career began with a Social Studies position in Marienville and spanned nearly three decades as an Elementary Teacher in Warren Co. He helped launch “Tabby Football plus Track and Field” events for 5th and 6th graders and facilitated the Presidential Fitness Program for boys and girls. As one of the few male elementary teachers at the time, he provided a positive role model especially for those who really needed it.

He was consistently committed to the Masons, the Shrine and Warren County Historical Society/ Wilder Museum always focusing on goals that helped others especially those in need. During his 60 years with Stillwater Lodge #547, he served in many service and leadership roles including Master. Joining the Zem Zem Shrine Oriental Band became his way of raising awareness of how Shriner hospitals give help to physically challenged children and raise money to fund that help. Keith was director of his local band for many years and held leadership offices in both regional and national Oriental Band organization. In 2002, Keith started making scroll-sawed angels from local cherry wood and selling them. All of the proceeds went to the hospitals. A different design was offered each year until 2019. However, it was not all Work. Lifetime friendships bound these like-minded men together working for a common goal. Recognizing his lifetime efforts, the Association of Shrine Oriental Bands-International named him the 2018 Bandsman of the Year.

The Wilder Museum was a passion with Keith. He loved to share his knowledge of history with museum visitors, especially children. He also shared his “fix it” wood-working skills as needed. You may share his passion free of charge on

Thursday, April 1st from 1-5 PM before or after the visitation at the Irvine Presbyterian Church from 1-3 PM, at which time a funeral service will be held there with the Lay Pastor, Peggy Teconchuk, officiating. Afterward, the Fellowship Hall will be open to view pictures and share stories.

Memorial donations may be made to the Irvine Presbyterian Church, Shriners Hospital for Children, 1645 W. Eighth St, Erie, Pa 16505 or to the Wilder Museum, 51 Erie Ave, Irvine, Pa 16329.

The Nelson Funeral Home & Cremation Services, in Youngsville, have been entrusted with all arrangements. Condolences to the family may be made at www.nelsonfuneralhome.net.