



David Vernon Keyes

November 18, 1946 - November 4, 2014

DAVID VERNON KEYES

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David died of cancer at his Fairfax, VA, home, surrounded by people who loved him.

His professional life included 27 years with the FBI and a subsequent career in cyber security. In private life, he loved science fiction, root beer floats, and above all, his family.

The son of Vernon H. and Mildred W. Keyes, David was raised in Salt Lake City. While attending the University of Utah, he met Janet Crystal, his beloved wife of 42 years.

David's FBI career spanned bureaus in Omaha, Chicago, San Diego and Washington, D.C. Though specifics of his work were confidential, his family knew that at various points it encompassed SWAT teams, counterespionage, and the investigation of white-collar crime, hate crime, and terrorism.

They also knew that while he vigorously pursued law-breakers, he sometimes went out of his way to help innocent members of their families. When he connected one suspect's wife with a church-based assistance group, the

tearful suspect called him “the nicest man who ever arrested me.”

David later served as legal attaché at the American Embassy in Bonn, where fluent German learned years earlier on a Mormon mission served him well. His first investigation there, pursued in cooperation with high-level German officials, was the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The family was living in Bonn when the Berlin Wall fell, and David’s children vividly recall the sense of history as their parents drove to the newly free Berlin. For the first time, they dared to wave at Russian border guards who would have stopped them months earlier, but who on this day smiled and waved back.

As the FBI’s liaison with law enforcement agencies of former Cold War adversaries, David was instrumental in establishing a joint police training academy.

Returning to Washington, he was an early advocate for increased attention to cyber security issues. He served during the Clinton administration on the President’s Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection and chaired the Federal Infrastructure Protection Task Force. He also was inspector-in-charge of the FBI’s Office of Computer Investigations.

After retiring from the FBI, he worked for several companies in the Washington area, remaining active as a speaker and trainer on cyber security issues. At the time of his death, he was chief operating officer of Policy Analytical and Security Services Inc.

An unassuming man, he combined keen intelligence and dry humor. He was a lifelong stalwart in his church, serving in numerous leadership positions and always exemplifying its message of faith and kindness.

Respected by his colleagues, cherished by his family, devoted to his loved ones, his country and his God, David lived a life of purpose and achievement. The lives of all he touched are better for it.

Besides his wife Janet, survivors are his son Jeffrey, of Fairfax; daughters Whitney (Mark Austin), of Alexandria; Jennifer (Randy Michaux), of Leesburg; and Kristy (Charlie Wolford), of Centreville; his sisters Sharon (Bill Matthews), of Lovettsville; Susan (Jim Sulat), and Sandra, of San Francisco; 10 grandchildren, and 8 nephews and nieces.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Nov. 15 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2719 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, Va. Burial will be in Flint Hill Cemetery.

Donations in David's memory can be made to the Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy (www.w2cca.org), a nonprofit whose founder describes David as catalyst for the idea of training wounded military members for cyber security careers.

Cemetery Details

Flint Hill Cemetery

Oakton, VA

Previous Events

Service

NOV 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2719 Hunter Mill Road
Oakton, VA

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I met David Keyes when he worked with VA's Office of Cyber Security. He was professional, knowledgeable and had a passion for security. He shared with some of us his role in catching the Pan Am 103 bombers. So sorry to hear that he passed and my thoughts and prayers are with his family. Sally Wallace

Sally Wallace - November 24, 2014 at 03:25 PM

CB

“ My name is Cynthia Burks and I was working at the Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters office at Martinsburg WV when I met David Keyes. He was such a knowledgeable man in the field of Security and Policy. I have never met a person so kind and understanding as Mr. David Keyes was. The last time he assisted our Program Office in developing policy I told him that I wanted to adopt him as my Dad because he was so kind. Of course he smiled and said okay. To the Keyes family, please accept my condolence for the lost of such a great man. May god bless and give you comfort during this time of loss.

Cynthia A. Burks

Cynthia Burks - November 13, 2014 at 03:40 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Vernon Keyes.



November 13, 2014 at 09:54 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Vernon Keyes.*



November 12, 2014 at 12:56 PM



“ *I first met David when he came to work for us at Veridian. He immediately made a tremendous impression, proving his expertise in cyber security in the most difficult of assignments. He not only worked hard, he took the time (and effort) to help train and educate the younger staff members in the nuances of the cyber security world and help them understand how truly difficult that business could be. Not long after he joined us I learned that he too was a member of the LDS Church, and we shared many quiet discussions about what we were doing in our church jobs and how we could use lessons from our "Church lives" in the business world. After I left Veridian (and subsequently the purchase of Veridian by General Dynamics) David and I saw each other at Church several times a year. We were not members of the same congregation, but his son and his daughter were both members of our congregation, thus he and Janet would visit on special occasions. It was always a pleasure to continue to share our mutual friendship and respect. David was a true friend and a real professional. He will be missed by all of us.*

Art Davis - November 09, 2014 at 05:26 PM