



William "Billy" Keyes

MAY 2, 1921 - FEB 14, 2026



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William "Billy" Keyes

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William Snowden Keyes, aka "Billy" Keyes, long time resident of Arundel on the Bay, passed away on Valentine's Day at Heart Homes in Annapolis, MD. Leaving behind a legacy of resilience and creativity that will live on in all who knew him.

Billy Keyes was the oldest son, born May 2nd, 1921, to Annie Payne Keyes and Charles Snowden Keyes of Washington, D.C. He is predeceased by two brothers, a sister, three children and three wives: Edward (Detroit), Robert (Washington, D.C.) and Adele (Washington, D.C.) and Tony, Cecelia, and Charles. He is survived by his daughter Jutta Butler, his son Erich Keyes, and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Billy Keyes grew up in Washington, D.C., on Florida Avenue, completed high school in New Orleans at Xavier Preparatory School. He then returned to Washington, D.C., married his first wife, Naomi in 1941. In 1944 he was drafted into the U.S. Army, he received an honorable discharge in 1946. Following this he had several low-level positions in the U.S. government. During this time, he had divorced his 2nd wife, Clara Bow and then in 1958 he married Anni Hessler, the mother of Erich and Jutta. (She passed away in 2013.) At age 47 he decided to go back to college to complete his degree (B.S. in Education) in 1968-1972 from D.C. Teacher's College (now UDC). He then went on to get a master's degree from University of District of Columbia. He enjoyed a career in the field of education, primarily as a counselor at McKinley Tech in Washington D.C., and then as a substitute teacher at South River High School until he retired when he was 96.

He was an accomplished artist; he expressed himself through vibrant abstract art and delightful cartoons. His creativity was not only seen on canvas and paper but felt in the joy he brought to others. He had an extraordinary sense of humor, the kind that caught you off guard and left you smiling. Whether through a quick-witted remark, playful drawing, or one of his many tall stories, he had a gift for making people laugh and make them feel at ease. His jokes will echo in our memories. His art will remain a reflection of his unique spirit and the laughter he inspired will continue to ripple through generations. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.




Events

William "Billy" Keyes

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Celebration of Life


 **Wednesday**, March 25, 2026


 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

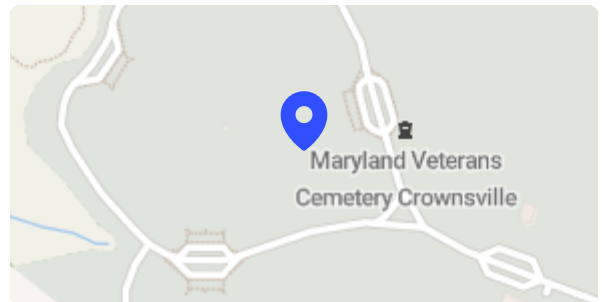
 **Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**
814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis MD 21401



Cemetery Details

 **Crownsville Veterans Cemetery**
1122 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville MD 21032

 **410-987-6320**





Tribute Wall

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M

Marsha Baker lit a candle in honor of William.

Billy Keyes.....always making life exciting and a laugh. Came to my house in WV for a family dinner and kept his coat on the whole dinner saying " he might have to get out of the state fast"

March 25 at 3:27 PM



AR

Ann Reid sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Keyes family.

March 22 at 10:26 AM



S

Shayna Foote posted:

I interviewed Bill three times for projects for two Master's degrees. He was part of my introduction to Sociolinguistics and Human Subject Research. In his mind, he was chatting and eating apple pie. It seems I never learned how to make his cherished lemon meringue. But, I think our favorite thing to do together was to watch black and white movies, during which time he'd tell me the backstory and about the actors. We also loved watching WWII movies with the Delias, or having a snack on their pier during the Cicadas' visit. What I'll never forget is him demanding that I sit and visit if I made him a pie. If I wasn't prepared to sit and chat, he invited me to get the hell out. He really did enjoy time with his friends, and he always made sure it was quality time. He will forever be missed.

March 20 at 7:43 PM

MA

Marc Apter posted:

Billy Keyes was without a doubt my oldest friend. I enjoyed guided tours of his garage museum and our occasional chats. And a unique personality. Im so glad I got to know him, Marc Apter

March 9 at 1:15 PM

SP

Shelly Parker lit a candle in honor of William.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of William Keyes. Rest peacefully.

March 2 at 6:49 AM





Tribute Wall

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S Forrester lit a candle in honor of William.

The best substitute teacher of all times.. South River High School c/o 2004

February 19 at 1:55 PM



Charles Brown posted:

One of the greatest men of our times you

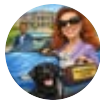
February 19 at 9:07 AM



Kristin Andre lit a candle in honor of William.

Mr. Keyes was such a great person and full of life. Every time I saw him, I would ask what's your secret to living such a loving healthy life....he would say to have a sip of vodka a day and to stay away from women. LOL :)I always looked for him when I knew he was coming in the office. He always made me smile and we even sung birthday to him last year. Put a big smile on his face.He was truly a good soul and I have been blessed to have known him. My Prayers go to his family or friends during this time.Thanks for the laughs Mr. Keyes :)

February 18 at 2:29 PM



Rie Foley posted:

Mr. Keyes,I am only one of numerous students within Anne Arundel County that thought the world of you. The impression you made on us as a substitute teacher is incredible. I am truly honored to have known you and want to thank you for your service, not only in the Army but also as a police officer and a teacher. You truly made this world better by simply being in it. Your 104 years were definitely a life well-lived. To your family, I send my sincerest condolences and prayers. He was loved by so many. His memory will live on and there are generations of us students who, to this day, cannot look at a red shirt without hearing his voice saying, "You commie!" :) He was the best substitute ever!!Rie SadlerSouth River High SchoolClass of 1992

February 17 at 9:51 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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