

Keith Roger Lykke



Keith Roger Lykke was born in Harlan, Iowa on October 8, 1956 to loving parents, Maurice and Katherine Ann Lykke. Keith passed away suddenly at home March 30, 2016.

Keith was baptized at Irwin, Iowa Lutheran Church. He attended several elementary schools in Iowa and Nebraska, graduating from Wayne High School, Wayne, Nebraska.

He was awarded an ROTC scholarship and attended Iowa State for one year in Ames, Iowa. Keith studied three more years and graduated with high honors from University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Following graduation Keith attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. He graduated with a PhD in Chemical Physics.

Keith married Gwendy Miyasaki, July 3, 1985 and they moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1987. Keith's career started with a postdoctoral appointment at Sandia Labs. After two years, they moved to Woodridge, Illinois where he continued at Argonne National Laboratory for seven years. Currently living in Gaithersburg, Maryland, Keith was doing research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He is recognized world-wide for his leadership in the development of the NIST SIRCUS facility, which has revolutionized the calibration and characterization of space-based sensors and is the foundation for many of NIST's optical radiation primary and disseminated standards. He has played leading roles in helping to ensure our Nation's space programs provide weather and climate measurement results that are of the highest quality. Keith's career was filled with friendships, awards and much success.

Keith was never happier than when he was home with family and a house full of kids. Keith's goodness will be remembered by the many who were lucky to share it.

Keith is survived by his wife Gwendy and children Jason, Niels and Kristina (Alex). He also leaves his father Maurice Lykke of Fargo, ND; brother Mark (Fae) Lykke of Spencer, IA; mother-in-law Mabel Miyasaki, brother-in-law Glenn Miyasaki, sisters-in-law Tammy (Jim) Golden, Meri Miyasaki (Paul), Diana Lykke. Also several nieces and nephews, including Natane (Michael) Sadusky, Suzanne (Thom) Mendlik, Sarah (Bruce) Leaker, Wendy (Jeremy) Lamb, Jacob (Justine) Curtis, and Jared Curtis. Grand nieces/nephews: Sydney Sadusky, Jack Sadusky, Christian Mendlik, Garrison Mendlik, Madisyn Hughes and Peyton Curtis.

Preceding Keith in death were his mother Katherine Ann, brothers Craig and Paul, sister Ruth Ann, and brother-in-law Richard.

There will be a gathering of family and friends April 9, 2016, 3:00 p.m., at Covenant United Methodist, 20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive, Montgomery Village, MD 20886. After the celebration of life, Keith will be buried alongside his mother, brothers and sister at St Paul's Cemetery, Ringsted, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to National Public Radio, the National Parks Foundation, or The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

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