



Phyllis J. Keeler

December 9, 1934 - January 11, 2024

Phyllis June White Keeler, 89, of Galway, went to her final reward on Thursday, January 11, 2024, in Orlando, Florida.

She was born in Johnstown, NY on December 9, 1934, a daughter of Roy S. and Isabell Frasier White and grew up and worked hard on a dairy farm in Broadalbin. Phyllis was a 1952 graduate of Broadalbin Central School. She made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior as a young girl in an after-school program and served Him through her entire life.

Phyllis knew from the time she was a little girl that she wanted to be a teacher. She put herself through college at the University of New York at Oneonta and graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Soon after, Phyllis married the love of her life and her knight in shining armor, Earl J. Keeler, of Ballston Spa, whom she met on a blind date and soon after broke a previous engagement to join ranks for the amazing adventure of their sixty-two years together. Mrs. Keeler taught at Rock City Falls Elementary, Broadalbin Elementary, and Joseph Henry Elementary School in Galway for a total of thirty-four years.

Phyllis' love for God, her family, friends, and community were reflected in her professional and personal life. She was involved in just about every community organization possible, including the following:

Galway Town Historian for fifty-two years

Teacher at Joseph Henry Elementary School for thirty-one years

Life membership in the Galway PTA for her outstanding contributions to the

youth of the community

4-H Leader for twenty-five years

Director of Elementary Student Council for twenty years

President of Galway Teachers Association

President and member of Galway Board of Education

Treasurer of the PTSA

Teacher of the Year in 1981

Founder of the Joseph Henry Day

Graduate of Liberty Home Bible Institute of Bible/Counseling 1991

President and member of Sacandaga Bible Conference Board

President and member of Barkersville Christian Church Board

President and member of the Galway Education Foundation

Member of the Galway Library Board and Galway Pantry

President and member of Galway Senior Citizens

President and member of Foster Hill Cemetery Association

President and member of Galway Preservation Society

Chairman and member of the Galway Republican Committee

President of the Upper Hudson Historical Foundation

Owner/director of the Cook Museum of Local History

Executive Director of Billy Graham Association Crusade in Fonda in 1996

Coordinator of Operation Christmas Child for many years

Gideon for many years with the Saratoga Camp where she served as

Auxiliary Chaplain

Television appearance on Restoration Road with Clint Harp - Season 1, episode 7

Phyllis received the State of New York Legislative Resolution from Senator Hugh Farley and M.A. Harris in 1988, commending her upon the occasion of her designation for a special honor by the State of New York 4-H Foundation and Cornell University.

She was an inspiration to many in her church, her community, her neighborhood, and her memory care facility, and was a counselor, mentor,

friend, example, and true follower of Jesus Christ.

In addition to her parents, Phyllis was predeceased by her husband, Earl, and her sister, Lois Thorne.

Survivors include a son, Earl A. Keeler and a daughter, Kathy (Michael) Guzman, both of Florida; three grandchildren, Eric Keeler, Aimee Keeler, and Andrew (Amanda) Poltorak; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, Lyman (Florence) White; a niece, Cheri (Marty) Sagatis; three nephews, Howard Sauve, Lyman (Bobbi) White, Jr., and John White; two sisters-in-law, Carole (Harvey) Hayner and Dorothy Pingelski; a brother-in-law, Lynn Delong; and many cousins, nieces and nephews and extended family in the Keeler, White and Frasier families.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at noon at the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc. 111 County Highway 106 (Corner of Route 29 & Black Street), Johns

town. Burial will follow in Foster Hill Cemetery, Galway. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the following organizations that Phyllis was part of and loved:

Galway Fire Department, Galway Ambulance Corp, Greater Galway Community Pantry, Galway Lions Club, Galway Community Library, Galway Preservation Society, Sacandaga Bible Conference (Give – SACANDAGA BIBLE CONFERENCE), Gideons International (Gideons International I Donate), or to Cornerstone Hospice (Gift Information (donorperfect.net)).

Cemetery Details

Foster Hill Cemetery

Galway, NY 12074

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Halgas Funeral Home
111 County Highway 106
Johnstown, NY 12095
(518) 883-5323
debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com
<https://www.halgasfuneralhome.com/>

Graveside Service

MAY 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Foster Hill Cemetery
Galway, NY 12074

Tribute Wall

DS

“ My first memory of Mrs Keeler is of the magic and wonder she created while teaching my kindergarten Sunday school class in Gloversville. I was around 4 years old. What a wonderful teacher and leader! As a young married couple Dan and I came to appreciate worshiping with her in Barkersville. We were blessed by her leadership there. She was sincere in her faith and steadfast in encouraging others in their faith. Her enthusiasm for all that she did was contagious. My mom really admired her leadership abilities. I learned much from her about being a leader when I served on a committee with her at Sac. It was great to see really effective leadership in action. Mrs. Keeler impacted so many lives for God. She is an inspiration to us all. We are thankful that her life touched ours and so many others in our communities.
Debbie (Springer) Sams

Debbie (Springer) Sams - February 17, 2024 at 05:10 PM

KG

Thank you, Debbie! Beautiful memories!

Kathy Keeler Guzman - March 28, 2024 at 06:49 AM

FW

“ Freida Alyce Wright lit a candle in memory of Phyllis J. Keeler



Freida Alyce Wright - February 09, 2024 at 04:05 PM

FW

Phyllis (& Earl) will forever be remembered in our hearts and lives...Our thoughts and prayers are with their entire family at this time of tremendous loss (but we know heaven's gain)... There are no words to express how much Phyllis's life, love, and leadership in service to our Lord has meant. These thoughts are being shared with great love and appreciation and honor for Phyllis...and Earl too. We will never forget Phyllis and will never forget them together ever...
Mark & Freida Wright

Freida Alyce Wright - February 09, 2024 at 05:26 PM



“*Tonya Watne lit a candle in memory of Phyllis J. Keeler*



Tonya Watne - January 26, 2024 at 08:03 PM



She was a beautiful person. God certainly blessed everyone who knew her. Our deepest thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Tonya Watne - January 26, 2024 at 08:05 PM