



Keith Douglas Merchant

September 13, 1947 - May 6, 2014

Keith Douglas Merchant of Cadillac passed away Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was 66. He was born September 13, 1947 in Cadillac to Douglas and Ruth (Johnson) Merchant.

Keith graduated from Cadillac High School and later earned his Bachelor's Degree from Ferris State University. He had a true entrepreneurial spirit and owned and operated several local businesses, such as: Cadillac Industrial Supply, American Punch and Die and B & P Manufacturing, which he presently owned with his wife Gale. Based upon these tireless efforts, he received significant local and state recognition for manufacturing excellence.

He felt most comfortable behind the scenes and had a passion for involvement in the local community. He donated to many local causes as well as served in many capacities for various organizations. He served on the board of Junior Achievement and the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce and was awarded Cadillac Chamber's Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 1999. Keith was a long term member of the Cadillac Industrial Fund and was a founding member of Cadillac Downtown Fund as well as the Cadillac Area Industrial Group. He also was vice chair of The Cadillac Firstbank board of directors. Keith never sought recognition and worked continuously to complete any project or task that he undertook.

He enjoyed boating, motorcycles, snowmobiling, hunting and fishing. He is survived by his wife, Gale Merchant of Cadillac; children, Brad (Lisa) Merchant of Howard City, and Nicole Hough of Cadillac; step children, Jon Larr of Grandville, Larry (Marcie) Larr of Leroy and Linda (Russell "Butch" Westdorp of McBain; seven grandchildren, a cousin, Coral (John) Tripp of Harrietta and step mother Geri Merchant.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son, Scott; an infant grandson, Christian Hough; cousins, Jerry (Nancy) Tyler and Darryl Tyler, Uncle and Aunt Truman (Ruby) Tyler.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac with Reverend Rich Langton and Reverend Scott Torkko officiating. Friends may meet the family Friday from 4-7 p.m. at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Memorials contributions may be made to Multiple Sclerosis Society. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ We are saddened at Keith's passing and our prayers are with Gale and his family. Keith was a tireless advocate for business development in Cadillac and the State of Michigan. He was one of the most successful business turn around specialists in the state and created many jobs here. His smile and positive attitude will be missed.

Jim and Deb Donaldson - May 12, 2014 at 01:16 PM

SL

“ We would like to offer our deepest condolences and prayers to Keith's family and friends.

Sam and John @ United Moving Equipment, LLC - May 12, 2014 at 11:50 AM

RR

“ We were so sorry to hear of the loss of our friend. He will truly be missed. Our deepest sympathies to Gale and her family. We will never forget him.

Rob and Lori Rogers - May 10, 2014 at 04:32 PM

CK

“ Our prayers go out to Gale and the Merchant family. Keith was a genuine leader, entrepreneur and extremely skilled businessman. Loved and respected by many, he will be missed, as his business legacy and creative strategies continue onward. He has taught me much about persistence and focus. His friendship and business advice over the years has been invaluable and helped me prevail. The world has lost a business mogul who was never afraid of challenge! May he rest in peace.

Carl Boettcher & Cindy Kreidler - May 10, 2014 at 11:33 AM

MW

“Godspeed on your next adventure, Keith! The words “servant and leader” both have your picture next to them in our book. We shall miss your presence, and cherish all your contributions. Our deepest condolences to Gail and family.

Mark and Jane Wightman - May 09, 2014 at 02:20 PM

SS

“My deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Keith. Our community is less without him, yet more because of his kind spirit and goodwill. We lost a good one.

Shari Spoelman - May 09, 2014 at 10:34 AM

PM

“It has been an honor to have worked with Keith over the last 13 years. He taught me a lot and I will always be grateful. Al and I will miss him very much.

Pat & Al Mys - May 09, 2014 at 09:35 AM

MT

“I knew Keith from my American Punch & Die days. It was a great pleasure to have worked for him. He will be missed.

Mike Tiihonen - May 08, 2014 at 04:02 PM

TE

“ We send our deepest sympathy to the Merchant family. Keith was a determined man that made his own success and he was an inspiration to all that understood him. The love and respect that he was shown in his final days and hours was impressive to see and an honor to be part of. His generosity to the community in many different ways can never be tallied and his legacy will live on. We are all better people for having interfaced with him and having him as a friend. Godspeed Keith!

Thom and Carol Eory - May 08, 2014 at 03:39 PM

CW

“ Keith, to say that I am a better person or that my life has been enriched in so many ways because of you would be a gross understatement. I will truly miss your guidance, your faith, your trust and most of all, your friendship. Thank you Keith.

Craig Whitney - May 08, 2014 at 01:10 PM

JC

“ Keith was an incredible example of strength, generosity of spirit and care for this community.

Judy Coffey - May 08, 2014 at 11:51 AM

SH

“ Keith was a huge support to this community and to myself and my family. He is greatly and sadly missed. My heart goes out to his family at this time, I am a better person for knowing Keith, his kindness and selflessness was beyond reproach.

Sara Parmenter Haskin - May 08, 2014 at 11:01 AM

AC

“ So saddened to hear of Keith's passing. He always had a good word to share and a smile on his face - his attitude was always positive, no matter what his personal challenge may have been. I miss seeing him in the neighborhood and will miss his presence in our local community. Our deepest sympathy to Gale and the family.

Ann Clous - May 08, 2014 at 10:38 AM

DM

“ We are sorry for your loss. Even though, I did not know Keith personally, I knew him through B&P. He and his wife would always donate a 'Pink' truck for our charity events, thank you. May he rest in piece and the family remember him well.

David Manske - May 08, 2014 at 09:55 AM

WW

“ Thank you Keith for being a part of my life. You always made me feel needed and trusted. Thanks for all the memories. You were a great friend. I will miss you very much.

Wayne Wehunt - May 08, 2014 at 09:11 AM

DC

“ Rest in Peace my friend. You will be missed.

Dennis Clark - May 08, 2014 at 08:15 AM

KS

“ Keith exemplified one of my favorite quotes of all time by George Washington Carver: "
How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."
He was a great man and did wonderful things for our community. He will be greatly missed.

Kim Simons - May 08, 2014 at 08:07 AM

EF

“ Keith was an inspiration to all of us. May he rest in peace. In deep sympathy.

Elsie Moore Family - May 08, 2014 at 07:42 AM

TB

“ To the family; My father told me that one could define their life as successful by the measure of the positive impact that person had on his family and community. By this standard, Keith's life was incredibly successful, and we are all better because of his tireless support. Arla and I came to love him and will miss him dearly. He has been, and will continue to be the standard I measure my life's success against. I can only hope to be half as good.

Todd (Arla) Bennington - May 08, 2014 at 06:50 AM

DM

“ keith will be sadly missed

dennis moffit - May 08, 2014 at 12:10 AM