



Nick Charles Keith

February 7, 1940 - June 11, 2018

Nick Charles Keith, longtime resident of Durant, passed away June 11, 2018, in Denison, Texas. He was born February 7, 1940, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Charles and Wanda Keith. The family moved to Atoka, Oklahoma, the following year. He graduated from Atoka High School in 1958. He was an outstanding basketball and baseball player in high school and earned a scholarship to play baseball at Wichita State University.

After one semester, he came to Southeastern on a basketball scholarship from legendary coach Bloomer Sullivan. He graduated from Southeastern in 1963. While both were attending Southeastern, he met and married Lola Hannan of Colbert, Oklahoma, on May 29, 1961. They were the proud parents of Kimberly, Kandace and Kayla.

He is survived by wife Lola of the home in Sherman, Texas, sister Christina Bock and husband Jim, daughters Kimberly SanMillan, Kandace Keith and Kayla Keith, son-in-law Lance SanMillan, grandchildren Sydni Pierce and husband Joe, Nicholas SanMillan, Kathryn SanMillan and Elizabeth SanMillan, and great grandchildren Lily and Atticus.

He was preceded in death by his father Charles, mother Wanda and brothers Terry and Bill.

Nick was greatly influenced by coaches throughout his playing career and he dreamed of having that same influence on others. He lived his dream by coaching boys basketball 15 years in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Atoka before taking a position as the club golf pro at Durant Country Club.

He was named women's basketball head coach at Southeastern in 1981. He had never coached women, but didn't miss a step in his 24-year career at Southeastern. He compiled 402 victories en route to becoming the winningest women's basketball coach in Southeastern history.

He led his teams to six national tournaments, five in a row in NAIA competition and one in NCAA Division II. He had back-to-back national runner-up finishes in the NAIA in 1995 and 1996, losing each time by only one point. Southeastern was also runner-up in NCAA Division II in 2002.

Among many outstanding players, he coached three-time All-America Crystal Robinson, who went on to play professional basketball. He and his team celebrated his 350th victory with a cake in the East Central dressing room.

Nick earned several Coach of the Year awards and has been inducted into the Southeastern Athletics Hall of Fame, the Atoka High School Hall of Fame and the NAIA Hall of Fame.

There's no telling how many miles he has traveled as both coach and player and no telling how many ponds he has been in searching for golf balls. He also served as golf coach at Southeastern.

Nick was highly respected in coaching circles and an outstanding classroom teacher. His teams were of high moral standards and great representatives of Southeastern. He was kind, compassionate, caring and successful and nobody ever had a badword to say about him.

Services are under the direction of Brown's Funeral Home. Family hour will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 15, at Brown's Funeral Home. Service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, June 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Durant.

Previous Events

Family Hour

JUN **15**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant
4900 West US Hwy 70
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 920-0393
info@brownsfuneralservice.com
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

Church Service

JUN **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church
515 Beech Street
Durant, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Nick Charles Keith*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *Nick Keith, you sir, were a class act as a fellow student, and coach. Always optimistic, and giving words of encouragement to others. RIP My Friend.*

God Bless,

Dorsey Jack Reirdon - June 15, 2018 at 03:11 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Nick Charles Keith .*



June 15, 2018 at 10:02 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Nick Charles Keith .*



June 14, 2018 at 06:56 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Nick Charles Keith .*



June 14, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ *Coach Keith was so much fun to watch and a great mentor to his players - RIP Coach Keith!*

Carol Morrow - June 14, 2018 at 11:38 AM



“ *What a kind man always wanted to talk golf! Thanks for taking me under your belt as your GA at SOSU. I appreciate all you work with women's basketball and all the athletes you coached. RIP my ole friend tell I see you again.*

kathy cotton clark - June 13, 2018 at 08:52 PM



“ *Coach Keith! was great man good coach. I was so happy I got to know him when. I was at Southeastern prayers & thoughts goes out to family just remember put God in front you he will lead the way Love Mary Broussard*



Mary - June 13, 2018 at 08:13 PM

BH

“ So sorry to hear this. He was a great coach and all around man. Had many hours working and visiting with him while I was attending college and working for campus police in the early 90s. He always had an encouraging word for me, as he knew I was a college student with three children trying to attend school and support a family. Never heard anyone say a negative word about him. May he rest in peace. We will be praying for the family.

Brad Horn - June 13, 2018 at 08:04 PM

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“ Great memories of Coach - RIP Nick Keith

Chris Ishmael - June 13, 2018 at 02:43 PM