



Keith R. Lerme

MAR 20, 1959 - DEC 17, 2023



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Mr. Keith R. Lerme, 64, of Cornelius, passed away Sunday, December 17, 2023.

Keith Lerme was a big guy with an even bigger heart. No one was dearer to him than “his girls,” his wife Sherry and daughter Brianna. Keith had dozens of friends and he always made you feel your friendship was family. He kept in touch and picked up right where you left off. Many friendship even dating back to childhood. He loved fishing, especially with his father. He loved food because of the togetherness it brought with the gathering of friends and family over a good meal. Keith was rascal who never outgrew his sense of mischief and had nicknames for everyone. He was a story teller that made you laugh at the crazy life he lived as a young adult.

Keith was born in New York to Madeline and Joseph Lerme. He attended Purdue University and received an MBA from University of CA, Irvine. In 1993 Keith married Sherry Hjelm, the love of his life, and they settled in Fraser, Colorado for three years, where their daughter Brianna was born. The family lived for 23 years in Crestwood, KY before moving to Cornelius, NC in 2019.

Most of Keith’s career was in the food business: Hyatt Hotel, KFC, Barnes & Noble, Gigi’s Cupcakes, Rusty Pelican, and Sullivan culinary school. However, most impact-fully to him, was his time working for Make A Wish. He was a coach and a leader to so many throughout his career and made a powerful impact on so many.

Keith is survived by his wife, Sherry; daughter Brianna Honn; son-in-law Adam Honn; and sister, Deborah Lerme Goodman. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Donations in Keith’s honor may be made to Atrium Health Foundation where all donations go directly to Atrium Health Liver and Pancreatic Care Advancement Fund that supports local research designed to advance the treatment and early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, <https://fundraise.atriumhealthfoundation.org/fundraiser/5143276>



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James Funeral Home is assisting the family, online condolences may be made at www.jamesfuneralhomelkn.com.



Tribute Wall

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SL

Sherry Lerme posted:

Dear Family & Friends, Thank you for understanding the delay in Keith's Celebration of Life. On January 17, we were blessed to welcome my first granddaughter, Charlotte Grace Honn, to our family. She has brought us so much joy and happiness with her sweet personality. We wanted Brianna and Adam to join us for the Celebration when Charlotte could safely travel, so we decided to celebrate Keith's life on March 16 in Cornelius, NC. We hope you can join us for this joyful celebration of Keith -- the man he was, the life he lived, and the impact he made on each and every one of us. In the spirit of celebration, be ready to share some of your favorite memories -- how you met, what kind of friend he was, what impact he left on you, even lessons you learned from or with Keith. If you're comfortable, we will have an 'open mic' for you to share with the larger group. I would like to celebrate all that Keith was and all the things he loved during his time on this earth with us, so please wear something that represents him which wasn't suits, ties and hard sole shoes 🧢🧢. To RSVP please email Celebratekeithlerme@yahoo.com. Additionally please add to your email any special memories or photos for a presentation and slideshow that I will be putting together for the Celebration of Life. Celebrating Keith's Life Date: March 16, 2024 Time: 2:00 pm Location: Bailey's Glen Clubhouse 12100 Meetinghouse Dr. Cornelius N.C.

February 3 at 10:03 AM

ML

Mark Lawlor posted:

I was Keith's pastor for the past year or so. I visited him a number of times especially over the past eight months. He was total gentleman, charitable and concerned about others. His courage as he accepted his illness was inspiring. He was a friend. My prayers go out to Sherry, Brianna, Adam and all the family. (Fr) Mark Lawlor

December 28 at 11:49 AM

EM

Ed And Marlene posted:

Dear Sherry and family, We are saddened to learn of Keith's passing. He was a gentle soul and will be missed in our community. We pray the wonderful memories you have will offer comfort during this very difficult time. Ed and Marlene Born.

December 20 at 11:40 AM



Marle'ne Greco posted:

My deepest sympathy to Sherry, Brianna, family and friends. Keith made the world a better place.

December 19 at 12:47 PM



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AL

Alan Leonard posted:

Cross-country skiing with Lerm on a sub zero, full moon night in the Adirondacks. Racing through the snow covered, moonlit trees, the air crystalline cold. One of many good times with a Great friend. Alan Leonard aka Float

December 19 at 5:50 AM

KJ

Karen Johnson posted:

Sending prayers to The Lerne family. I will always remember meeting Keith in the mornings to get the paper...he in his boxers, me in my jammies. May you find peace and comfort in your memories and love. Karen and Gary Johnson

December 19 at 4:35 AM

SA

Sallie December 19 at 1:36 PM

So sorry for your loss
Condolence to Sherry & family

PK

Pat Kelly posted:

Keith and our son Paul were very good friends since they first met at Northern Highlands High School in Allendale, NJ. Keith often visited our home and was a lovely boy. We are so sorry for your loss. Pat and Paul Kelly

December 18 at 4:15 AM

PA

Paul posted:

The canoe races at Harriman State Park. The third annual when Keith showed up with the largest canoe paddle I have ever seen.

December 17 at 8:09 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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