



## Joan Arnold Keller

January 24, 1936 - May 6, 2019

Joan Arnold Keller, 83, died peacefully at her home on May 6, 2019. A longtime resident of Mandeville, Mrs. Keller touched the lives of many in the local community through her faith, compassion, generosity, kindness, love, and strength. Always a fun-loving and active presence in the lives of her children, Mrs. Keller served as den mother for numerous Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and could be counted on as an engaged PTA and school board member. She chaired multiple fundraisers for each school her children attended and as well as for a variety of community organizations. She put her love of athletic competition to good use by helping to establish and coach basketball and volleyball teams at St. Scholastica Academy, and by coaching 4th ward basketball and volleyball teams. She also enjoyed playing tennis with her own circle of friends. Mrs. Keller was an advocate for her beloved oak trees, and once saved a live oak tree in Mandeville by tying 100 yellow ribbons to it and placing her children around the trunk to prevent it from being cut down.

Mrs. Keller attended Holy Name of Jesus Elementary School in New Orleans, and graduated from Mercy Academy as Valedictorian. She received a BS in Medical Technology from Loyola University New Orleans in 1957, where she met her future husband, Gerald (Jerry) C. Keller. Mrs. Keller worked at the Hotel Dieu Blood Bank and later at Mercy Hospital New Orleans. In 1985 she founded and served as president of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Association of Bone Marrow Donor Registries, the first of its kind in the United States. Mrs. Keller assisted in setting up registries across the United States and Europe. Many years later, she rejoiced when she herself matched and was able to donate her own bone marrow.

Mrs. Keller lived a life of faith by example every day of her life, demonstrating her unwavering belief in God through a lifetime of volunteerism and community activism. She received many awards, including the New Orleans Archdiocese's Regina Matrum Award in 1981, which recognizes an outstanding and representative Catholic mother of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. In addition, she later received the New Orleans Archdiocese St. Louis award. Mrs. Keller continued to contribute to her parish church late in life as a member of the Our Lady of the Lake Alter Society and as a church usher.

Mrs. Keller was preceded in death by her daughter Sharon Marie Keller, her parents, the

late Dr. John G. Arnold and Marion O'Loughlin Arnold, and her sister, Mary Arnold Toups. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Keller; sons Gerald (Chris) C. Keller JR. (wife Marilyn), John A. Keller (wife Midge), Col. Daniel A. Keller retired (wife Wendy), Michael "Scott" Keller (wife Diane), Roger J. Keller II (wife Allyson), Lt. Col. Gregory G. Keller (wife Bethany), and daughters Jennifer K. Walkenford (husband Jon), daughter Jody K. Birotte (husband Byron), and Joan (Joni) M. Keller; 30 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews. She also served as a friend, and surrogate mother and grandmother to countless others in the Mandeville community throughout the years.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a visitation at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home 2260 W. 21st Ave. Covington, LA 70433 on Sunday May 12th from 5pm to 8pm and on Monday May 13th at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church 312 Lafitte Street Mandeville, LA 70448 from 2:00 PM until service time. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, May 13th at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church at 3:00 p.m. Interment in Mandeville Cemetery.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be sent to Kickin' Parkinson's, a Team Fox in support of the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Donations may be either be mailed to Kickin' Parkinson's, 3500 N. Causeway Blvd. Metairie, LA 70002 or donations can be made at [www.kickinparkinsons.com](http://www.kickinparkinsons.com). We would like to thank Notre Dame Hospice and Golden Concierge for their many hours of loving care  
Share a memory on the tribute wall at [www.ejfieldingfh.com](http://www.ejfieldingfh.com) .

# Cemetery

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**Mandeville Mausoleum**  
1609 Montgomery St.  
Mandeville, LA, 70448

# Events

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**MAY 12 Visitation 05:00PM - 08:00PM**  
E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2260 W 21st Ave, Covington, LA, US, 70433

**MAY 13 Visitation 02:00PM - 03:00PM**  
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church  
312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, LA, US, 70448

**MAY 13 Funeral Mass 03:00PM**  
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church  
312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, LA, US, 70448

# Comments

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“ Dr. Keller and Family, My sincere condolences to you and your Family! Mrs. Joan was such a kind and caring lady. She will be truly missed. God Bless You, Toni, Ashley and Mary Kate Osbourn

**Toni Osbourn** - May 13 at 03:19 PM

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“ I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ms Joan. My prayers are with you all as you go through these next days of missing her. She was such a kind and caring person but I know that your memories of her will carry you through these days without her. I also know that EJ, Polly and Flora among so many others were there to welcome her home. Blessings to you all.

**Theresa Klebba Brown** - May 13 at 01:30 PM

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“ Mrs. Keller was one of the kindest people I have ever met. Mrs. Keller always had open arms to welcome our family when we went to their house. I loved to go to the Keller house! It was always full of love and life, and I think of you and your family often.  
Christine Klebba

**Christine Klebba** - May 12 at 07:41 PM

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“ Mrs Keller was a great person and great host; I used to be at their house allot with Chris during high school and college. I'll always remember her making sure we had enough to eat and drink as we played basketball, tennis, and bumper pool. I just want her to know she had a positive influence on my life and appreciate all that she did.

Doug Durand

**Doug Durand** - May 12 at 12:38 PM

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“ Joan and Jerry were already good citizens when Al and I moved here in 1970. We were fortunate enough to know them in the beginning because he became our Doctor. Stitched up my children quite often. The area was smaller then, and we all knew each other. Each week I would see them at OLL for mass, and our children attended the same schools. John and Sharon were best friends with two of our

children.

Joan was a dynamo. If anything needed attention she was right there to handle it. She always amazed me, and gave me an inferiority complex, until I realized how special she was, and that most of us could not achieve the things she did.

She was special, and she will be missed.

God bless her family. She will be looking down at us to be sure He does.

**diane kramer** - May 11 at 12:52 PM



“ Joan and Jerry have contributed so much to to the community and individually to the lives they touched. I was blessed to be welcomed into their home & family by Mrs. Keller as a friend of John’s over the years. John and I chuckled many Year’s later when he thought he dented Joan’s Suburban and John brought it to my house and I repaired it on a Saturday morning including the vinyl wood grain on the side. John said Joan was telling Jerry, “ Jerry I promise somebody hit my car at the grocery, really!”. Wonderful people who have made the world a better place. God bless.

**Patrick Seiler** - May 12 at 10:16 PM



“ Joan and Jerry Keller served as my surrogate mom and dad during a difficult time in my life. I basically showed up at their door. They welcomed me as one of their own children. I was in college at the time. I spent the entire summer with them and the kids. What a wonderful experience. Turned my life around. I'll always be grateful.  
Scott Peterson

**Scott Peterson** - May 10 at 02:49 PM



“ Love, Rosine & Clint Dougherty purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joan Arnold Keller.



**Love, Rosine & Clint Dougherty** - May 10 at 02:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joan Arnold Keller.



May 10 at 11:02 AM

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“ Although we were not immediate family( Scotts wife is my sister) Joan and Jerry always treated us as if we were family. Such a caring and loving family! I remember when Scott and Diane began dating, Scott lived in a rundown house in Gettysburg . The family had come up for an event in DC and they drove to Gettysburg to visit. The home had holes in the floor,some of the floors were sloping , and the walls were in bad condition. Scott and Diane were concerned about his family visiting.We were all there to meet his family. Joan walked around inspecting the house committing on all the positive features. She was crawling on the floor in her nice clothes trying to figure out why the floors were sloping and how to fix the hole in the floor! I knew that day that Diane was marrying into a wonderful family who would take care of her as they were going to move back to Mandeville. She always found the time to visit us when we were down and would make us red beans and rice. And the crawfish feeds, we never ate crawfish before!!

I'm sure she will be missed and pray the family will keep the wonderful memories in their hearts. Such a wonderful person!

**Dawna Flora** - May 10 at 10:57 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joan Arnold Keller.



May 09 at 09:52 PM

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“ Between my son Rob and Joan's and Jerry's Roger, we rarely had a full moment! I am grateful to have had an opportunity to share a minute with Joan at the Meet the Marching Wolves gathering at St. Paul's this fall. We were there watching our grandsons begin another wonderful year with the band.

Rest peacefully, Joan, you leave a stunning legacy!

Love to all the Kellers whom I know and/or taught!

## Mary Pratt Lobdell

Mary Pratt Lobdell - May 09 at 08:21 PM



“ FREE moment...

Mary Pratt Lobdell - May 09 at 08:22 PM

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“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Arnold Keller.



May 09 at 05:44 PM

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“ Paul Swanson and family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Joan Arnold Keller.



Paul Swanson and family - May 09 at 03:47 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Arnold Keller.



May 09 at 03:21 AM

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“ She is an angel to all. Her kindness was a great example. In Girl Scouts, I remember her teaching us how to make a silk screen design for Tshirts. We all had different ideas, which she allowed without judgment. She was positive no matter how complicated or messy the design. Years later, I went on a double date to St. Paul's

Homecoming, which brought us to the Keller home. She had brownies and refreshments... and, a welcoming heart full of joy. I imagine her like that now... an angel watching over all of the lives she touched.

Love and Prayers to the Keller Family.

Nancy Cassell

**Nancy Cassell** - May 09 at 02:30 AM

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“ I had a beauty shop back when Dr Keller first started his practice and did Joan' s hair and some of her children. She was the most caring person I have ever met.

**Pat Hahn Crawford** - May 08 at 09:36 PM

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“ I went to OLL through the fifth grade with Jennifer. I can remember going to their house for a sleepover. Mrs. Keller was such an inviting host, & we all felt so welcome! A fine lady & a true Christian in every sense of the word. She will be missed. Prayers going up for the family.

**mariette reed molinario** - May 08 at 06:10 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers and light.

**Jo Dupre** - May 08 at 04:21 PM

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“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Joan Arnold Keller.



May 08 at 03:42 PM

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“ My prayers for Dr. Keller and family. It is such a GREAT loss. Joan touched so many lives. I was teaching at OLL at the time she started the Marrow Donor registry. I signed up. What a beautiful example for her children. May she rest in PEACE. I'm sure when she got to heaven--the gates opened and she heard "Well done good and faithful servant, and come to the place I have prepared for you."

Annette Sonnier (Sister Raymond, OSB.) - May 08 at 12:45 PM

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“ Dr Keller & family: I was so saddened to hear of Mrs Joan's passing. She was a beautiful lady, and a God fearing woman who always had time to do for others, including her husband, her 10 children, her grandchildren, & her great grandchildren. From the time I met her over 20 years ago, she always had a smile on her face. Grief & sadness is a journey for those of us she left behind. Her new, everlasting life & journey with Christ has just begun. May the Lord comfort & console you Dr Keller & surround you & your family with His love & May the many memories each of you share of Mrs Joan help you during this difficult time.



Kim Henderson Jarrell - May 08 at 01:32 AM

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“ What a Beautiful person Joan was I will miss giving her the Body and Blood of Christ. Now she is in Jesus presence enjoying all his Glory  
My condolence to Dr. Keller and all the family, will keep you all in my prayers. May Joan Rest in God Peace.

Charles and Anita Porche - May 07 at 05:10 PM