



## Keith W. Pierce

March 18, 1947 - December 30, 2015

Keith Wallace Pierce was born on March 18, 1947 in Old Mystic, Connecticut to Ruth and Wallace Pierce. He passed away after complications from his open heart surgery on December 30, 2015, at age 68. He is the oldest of three children. He graduated from Fitch Senior High School in 1965. He obtained a bachelor degree from Northeastern University and a Master's degree from the University of Connecticut.

Keith was Senior Vice President of Operations for the Detroit Media Partnership from 1993 until he retired in 2010, running the printing facilities for the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News. He earlier worked for the New York Daily News and several other top publications. Soon after retirement, Keith embraced TGA. He loved working with kids, from preschoolers to middle schoolers. Keith always smiled, but the kids made him smile even more, and he shared that passion with others, often recruiting friends to join the TGA team. Just two months before the surgery, Keith was likely the most active retired person in metro Detroit. Not only did he teach a full schedule of TGA after-school classes, but he taught Sunday school to kids at his church, plus a mid-week Bible study for adults. He chopped his own firewood. He managed his rental property and was Mr. Fix-It. He was a consultant in the printing industry. He played tons of golf, had tons of friends and always had a smile for everyone he met.

And of course he loved playing golf. Keith was fortunate enough to play some of the world's greatest courses -- Pebble Beach, Pine Valley, Merion, St.

Andrews, Whistling Straits (pictured above) and many more. But he was equally at home paying the senior rate -- or even better, a GolfNow hot deal -- at public courses in metro Detroit and playing for \$2 a side with his many golf buddies.

During those matches Keith would proudly update everyone on the latest achievements of his family. Keith is survived by son Harrison and daughter-in-law Verlinda, daughter Kendall, his younger sister Beverly and her husband Ken, his younger brother Scott, his stepchildren Pamela and Stephan, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Visitation will be Monday, Jan. 4, from noon-2 p.m. at Sullivan and Sons, 705 W. Eleven Mile, Royal Oak, MI 48067. A funeral service will follow at 2 p.m., with dinner after the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to either Vox Church in Chesterfield, the American Heart Association or the TGA Sports Foundation, which funds scholarships for families who can't afford TGA golf programs.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

JAN 4. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Memorial Service

JAN 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
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# Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Keith was a kind and gentle man. He always had a smile on his face. Enthusiastic about life. It was an honor to have known him. I will miss you my friend.* ”

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**Barbara Rybczynski** - March 11, 2016 at 09:12 AM

TL

“ *There are so many great things I can say about Keith. I was fortunate and blessed to have worked with Keith for 11 years. Keith played an important role in my life and career- a true mentor and friend. He will be missed.* ”

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**Tom Letto** - January 04, 2016 at 08:57 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Keith W. Pierce.* ”



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January 04, 2016 at 08:31 AM

JB

“ I met Keith shortly after his arrival at Detroit Newspapers in 1993, and knowing him has been an amazing and rewarding experience. He was a leading expert in printing technology, held an array of high-powered jobs, traveled the world, mentored countless others, told amazing stories (some more than once), passed along his love of golf to young people, renovated big old houses, knew people from just about everywhere - and also raised some wonderful children and embraced another family at Vox Church. And these are just things I know about. I can't recall ever being around him when he wasn't talking enthusiastically about something. Keith often said he slept just a few hours a night; the wonder is that he slept at all, considering all he managed to accomplish in a life that was far too short. Thanks for all you gave to so many of us, Mr. Pierce!

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**John Bentley** - January 03, 2016 at 07:10 PM

KZ

“ I worked with Keith for several years at Detroit Media Partnership. He was a brilliant production guy who could do these massive calculations in his head. He was always right! We referred to his math as Connecticut math. He always had a smile and no matter how busy he was, always had a minute to bounce ideas off of him. Keith was a great teacher, mentor and friend who will be greatly missed.

*Karen Zemnickas*

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**Karen Zemnickas** - January 03, 2016 at 12:46 PM

HR

“ When I first met Keith he took me to the finest restaurants, best seats for sport events and shows; he always was looking for more of everything. I invited him to Brown City Camp, a ten day church camp. I wanted to share one of my favorite places with him. He visited one of the first evening services (to humor me, he said). He did not miss another evening service, driving over an hour each way. That weekend he went forward to dedicate his life to Christ. I gave him his bible that day, which he read and used for teaching. Later I gave him a nativity which he kept up year round to celebrate the birth of Christ. I am so thankful Keith found what was better, and it could not be taken from him. Heidi Richards

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**heidi richards** - January 03, 2016 at 06:48 AM

MR

“ Keith was always smiling when I saw him at church. Always so joyful. Had a hug for everyone. He taught my daughter about golf there in a grassy area beside the church parking lot.

*My last conversation with him was about how he was helping a friend shop for supplies for a partial climb of Mt Everest to share Jesus with the Sherpas. We will miss Keith a great deal. Until we are reunited in Glory... Megan Rock*

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**Megan Rock** - January 02, 2016 at 08:50 PM