



## Keith Sutton

December 10, 1952 - December 7, 2018

Keith Dale Sutton died peacefully in Willard Walker Hospice Home on December 7, 2018 in Fayetteville, Arkansas at the age of 65.

Keith is survived by his wife, Ruth Sutton, of the home; children, Dr. Jacob Sutton and wife Dr. Anne Sutton, of Tulsa, OK and Charisse Soriano and husband Alberto of Springdale, AR; grandchildren Elijah and Luana, who were the light of his life; sister, Margie Ross and husband Roy, and twin sister Kriss Morgan, both of Miami, Oklahoma; sister-in-law Teresa Sutton, of Zena, Oklahoma, a crew of nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, lifelong friend Mike Lillie and wife Carla Lillie. He is preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Betty Sutton; brother, Ken Sutton; and brother-in-law, Joe Dan Morgan.

Born on December 10, 1952 in Miami, OK to Kenneth and Betty Sutton, Keith was proud of his Cherokee heritage. He graduated from Miami High School in 1971 followed by Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in 1973 with an Associate's degree.

He met Ruth Wiebelt at Backroom Chapel in Stillwater. They married on December 30, 1977. Being a self-proclaimed "professional student," Keith continued his educational pursuits at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma State University, Rose State College, Oral Roberts University, and Excelsior College. He received a bachelor's degree in Humanities from OSU as well as a master's degree in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College. During this time, Keith and Ruth welcomed two children, Jacob and Charisse, into their home and Keith set about sharing with them a passion for education, reading, music, and world travel. After moving to China in 1988, Keith began teaching English and discovered that teaching was his true calling. While in China, he was on Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989 when troops moved in to suppress students demonstrating for democracy. He and his twin sister's family were survivors of the 2011 Joplin tornado while he was a patient in St. John's ICU. He credits his ICU nurse for initially keeping him alive when his ventilator failed and many others for helping him during a six month coma to recover so he could meet and be a part of his precious grandchildren's lives.

His children remember him as being a cantankerous, but loving father who encouraged

them to pursue their goals and explore the world, which they did. He was so proud of his children. At the height of his career, he thoroughly enjoyed working with international students as the Coordinator of International Programs and later as an English Instructor at NEO. One of his favorite things to do each year was to compile Christmas CD's to share with coworkers and friends.

Keith loved to collect, play and share music. His sisters always said he marched to the "beat of a different drummer." Throughout his life, he threw himself into passions, such as golf, making picture frames, music, writing poetry, and copying movies and documentaries. Keith loved to bless people who were special to him. He loved gifting his possessions such as guitars, pictures he had framed, and souvenirs to family and friends. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service is scheduled for 1:00 pm Tuesday, December 11th at Bethany Christian Church in Miami, Oklahoma. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Keith's life. Services are conducted by Brown Winters Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to NEO College Foundation for student scholarships at 200 I Street NE, Miami, OK 74354 or the Willard Walker Hospice Home in Fayetteville, AR. The family would like to thank the staff of Washington Regional Medical Center and the Hospice Home for their compassionate care of Keith in his final days.

Services are entrusted to Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Miami, Oklahoma.

# Events

---

**DEC**   **Celebration of Life**   01:00PM

**11**

---

Bethany Christian Church

2127 North Main Street, Miami, OK, US, 74354

# Comments

---



“ A tribute video has been added.



**Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service** - December 10, 2018 at 12:09 PM

---



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Keith Sutton.



December 11, 2018 at 12:04 PM

---



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Keith Sutton.



December 10, 2018 at 11:53 AM

---



“ 102 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service** - December 10, 2018 at 10:46 AM

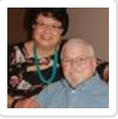
---



“ I always marvelled at Mr. Sutton's fascination with "Catcher in the Rye" and how he would love new perspectives on the truer meaning of his favorite character, Holden. He somewhat identified himself with that main character. It was a joy attending his classes, and coming to know you, his family, through his stories and how proud he is of each one of you! We were all blessed, he will be missed!

**Sandra Kelley-Krieg** - December 08, 2018 at 01:28 AM

---



“ Keith was definitely one of a kind! He was a wonderful mentor to so many students at NEO. I received many of his Christmas CD's and will cherish them always. His family should know how much he was respected and loved. Fly high, Keith!

**Beverly Arnold** - December 07, 2018 at 11:33 PM

---



“ I worked with Keith at NEO, truly a gentle giant. I still have and will always cherish his gifts of Christmas Music CD's that he made for me. Several members of the NEO family received this sweet gift from him. He touched so many lives.

**Edie Ingram** - December 07, 2018 at 10:43 PM

---



“ Our days of working alongside Keith with international students hold some of our dearest memories in our ministry. He provided so many great opportunities for us. He is loved around the world. Lonnie and Chris Portenier

**Lonnie Portenier** - December 07, 2018 at 08:57 PM

---



“ I worked with Keith at NEO for many years. He supported the college and was kind and encouraging to his colleagues and students. He helped make the busy days of college go smoother. It is my hope that his family will be comforted knowing that he was appreciated.

**Jeff Birdsong** - December 07, 2018 at 08:29 PM

---



“ Deepest sympathy we will miss him. Once heard him described as a gentle giant. Prayers for the family.

**Steve & Carolyn Parnell**

**Steve & Carolyn Parnell** - December 08, 2018 at 10:19 AM



“ It's hard to even speak about him in past tense. I echo the same sentiments as many who knew him both in his professional and personal life. I'm fortunate to have been one of those people. Keith recruited me in South Africa in the early 90's, as I joined NEO later that decade he became a friend and mentor. I think I speak for many international students from all over the world, but particularly the African group when I say, Keith was genuinely a caring person. His office was a place to unwind between classes for some of us and his home was the true hangout place we had for many years. Our friendship with Keith and Ruth continued beyond the NEO years, Ann and I are heartbroken to know that the "loving giant" is gone, he left us with great memories one of which was son's first acoustic guitar. Rest in peace my friend, you left an indelible mark on our hearts. We pray for you Ruth and your family as you go through this life altering event in your lives.

**Bonny and Ann** - December 09, 2018 at 10:51 AM



“ I'm very happy, but not shocked, to read the complimentary statements about Keith above. We went to Roosevelt Elementary together, then through MHS. My favorite story about him: Third grade. I was pitching softball to him at recess. He undercut a good pitch up the middle. He was looking all around for it as it came down and bopped him on the noggin. Everyone but Keith died laughing. When Keith realized what had happened, he started laughing, too. That was Keith. He was never concerned with small things. He laughed at himself when it was the thing to do. Viewing the comments from others, I wish I'd have stayed in closer touch. Rest In Peace, my friend. Condolences to Kriss and his many friends and other relatives. Bob Paine

**Bob Paine** - December 09, 2018 at 10:29 PM



“ Keith were friends from MHS the class of 71. After I joined the Air Force we drifted apart but reconnected on Facebook. A unique free spirit. We will all miss Keith....rest in peace my friend.

David Merit

**David Merit** - December 16, 2018 at 09:44 PM