



John Philip Keely

December 23, 1934 - October 7, 2024

Keely, John, (Jackie) passed away October 7 from cancer, surrounded by his family. John was born December 23, 1934 in Staples, Minnesota. He grew up in Bloomington, lived in Apple Valley, and was now residing at Gramercy Cooperative in Richfield. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Dorothy Keely, his brother Tim and his beloved daughter Patricia Keely. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, his son Peter (Laura), his son-in-law Tom Powell, his grandchildren Addison Keely and David Kwong and numerous nieces, nephews and friends as well as his bonus grandchildren Ethan, Elliot and Greta.

John graduated from the College of Art and Design in California and worked 50 years as an illustrator and fine artist. During that time he owned his own studio, Studio West, and did illustrations for many of the top companies in Minnesota. He won numerous awards and his work appeared in books, magazines, newspapers and billboards as well as the Illustrators Annual. His fine art work was seen in shows and galleries. He and his wife Ruth were married for 63 years and traveled to all 50 states as well as cities in Europe, Canada and Mexico.

The celebration of his life will be held November 9th at 11:00 at Minnesota Valley Unitarian Fellowship, 10715 Zenith Avenue S., Bloomington, MN.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to VEAP, a community food support in Bloomington. (veap.org)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MVUUF)
10715 Zenith Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55431

Tribute Wall



“ I knew John Keely as a leading illustrator. He was also a fellow instructor in the University of Minnesota Graphic Design and Commercial Illustration Certificate Program, taught as evening courses through the University's extension program. John and his firm Studio West were prolific, well-known and respected in the Twin Cities advertising, illustration, art direction, graphic design, and publishing communities. This contributed to his influential teaching as an award-winning exemplar at the University of Minnesota. I am glad I had a chance to know and work with him.

Patrick M. Redmond, M.A. - December 12, 2024 at 05:07 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Philip Keely.



November 08, 2024 at 11:15 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Philip Keely.

November 08, 2024 at 11:15 AM