



## Phyllis I. Keith

September 15, 1922 - April 15, 2021

Phyllis Ilene Keith originally from Oxford, Michigan and Tucson Arizona passed away peacefully on April 15, 2021 at age 98 in her Minneapolis Home surrounded by family members and her beloved feline friends.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband Floyd Ray Keith, mother Mae Elizabeth Eagon, father Reuel Herbert Eagon and her two-week old twin sister Lois Jean Eagon.

Phyllis is survived by her five children; Ann Marie Shankle, Susan Mae Keith, Robert Ray Keith, Mary Elizabeth Keith and James Floyd Keith, five grandchildren; Wanda Lynn Hernandez, Kristina Marie Pharr, Robert Ray Keith II, Trevor James Keith and Anthony William Keith , and 12 great grandchildren; Alexzander Mikal Carlock, Joshua William Givhan, Maynard Floyd Pharr, Hunter Keith Pharr, Jade Ann -Marie Pharr, Atreyu Anthony Pharr, Summer Nicole Marie Keith, Justin Ray Felton, Nadia Ann Nicole Hernandez, Maya Lynn Romona Hernandez and Ethan Trevor Keith.

Her loving parents nurtured her with music, poetry, faith, and an appreciation of nature. During childhood Phyllis studied piano and violin. She helped out at her parent's general store during the 1930s. Her mother attended high school at the same time as Phyllis and two shared a mutual pride in their diplomas. Phyllis overcame her childhood struggles with dyslexia and became an avid

reader and writer.

Phyllis visited New York City in 1945 and was present to witness the street V-E celebrations and the return of World War II's veterans. Prior to marriage she worked in Detroit at the Hudson store as a comparison shopper. Sewing her own clothing and making hats were one of her favorite pastimes.

Phyllis met Floyd Ray Keith from Plainwell, Michigan at a Detroit YMCA big band dance. When she first saw Floyd she told a friend; "that is the man I am going to marry." The couple married in October of 1948. They raised five children in a home built by Floyd and Reuel on 20 acres east of Oxford, Michigan. It was a hobby farm with a 1.5-acre garden, mini-orchard, horse pasture, expansive yard, and a couple ponds in the woods. Phyllis had an indoor greenhouse that was her private retreat. She was a stay-at-home mom, a 4-H leader and in her late 50s she returned to college to study photography, pottery, painting and fabric arts.

Phyllis and Floyd spent many of their retirement years exploring the United States in a recreational vehicle before finally settling in sunny Tucson, Arizona where they enjoyed art, geology, and the weather. There she was joined by her close

friend and fellow artist, Theola McPherson of Lakeville, Michigan. After Floyd's passing, Theola and Phyllis enjoyed many days of art and sunshine.

Phyllis also wrote short stories and poems to leave behind. Here are a few of her poems.

#### The Magic Touch

A sun beam softly touches a bud,

"Wake Up" it whispers. "It's your turn to shine."

Bud opens and stretches as far as it can,  
As the world looks on at its splendor.

#### Sumi-e Dance

Brush asks ink to dance.  
Gliding across a paper floor,  
They leave a trail of delight.

#### Haiku

Sitting on a branch,  
One ounce of feathers  
Fills the air with song.

In lieu of flowers please feel free to donate to her favorite charity, the Smiles Foundation, [smilesfoundation.org](http://smilesfoundation.org).

# Tribute Wall

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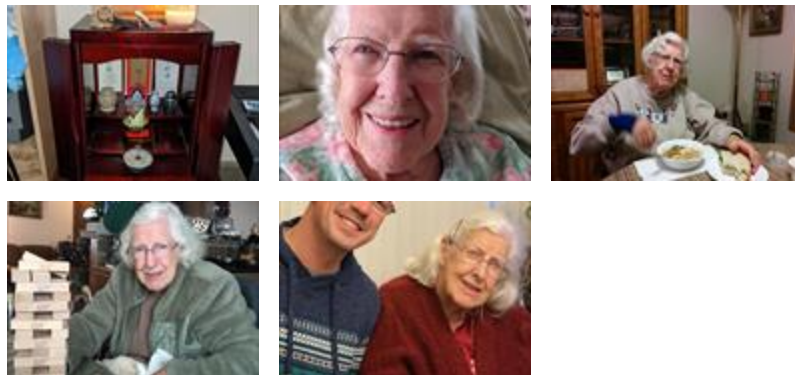


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**David Ventura** - May 14, 2021 at 08:09 PM

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“ 26 files added to the album *Dave's Photos of Mom*



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**David Fujiki Ventura** - May 14, 2021 at 07:36 PM