



Herbert Keith Cole

May 30, 1945 - January 13, 2021

Herbert Keith Cole, age 75, of Searcy, Arkansas passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. He was married for 55 years to his high school sweetheart, Joan Gipson Cole. He graduated from Searcy High School in 1963, and received a B.S.B.A. degree from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway in 1967. Following graduation from college, he owned Powell Truck Line for 12 years before purchasing Leslie Jewelers in 1980. He and his wife, Joan, owned and operated the jewelry store for 33 years.

Keith loved Searcy, and spent his career serving the community. He served as President of the Searcy Chamber of Commerce in 2005 and as President of the Searcy Downtown Merchants' Association for many years. He was also a member of the Regions Bank Board of Directors. He and Joan were lifelong members of Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy.

Keith was deeply loved by his family and friends. He made each person with whom he came in contact feel valued and important. He touched many lives, and was widely regarded as a man of character and integrity.

Keith was born May 30, 1945 in Bell Gardens, California to the late Lois and Lorene Cole. He is survived by his wife, Joan Gipson Cole, his son, Brian Cole (Missy) of Fayetteville, Arkansas, grandsons Matthew, Jackson and Henry Cole of Fayetteville, grandson Jake Ross of Fayetteville, granddaughter Abby Ross of Fayetteville, brother Michael Cole of Cabot, Arkansas, brother-in-law Jim Gipson (Nancy) of Searcy, Arkansas, nieces Amy Maxson of Little Rock, Chris Rambo of Searcy and Melanie Purnell of Searcy, and their

children.

Charitable donations can be made in the name of Keith Cole to the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org or at P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023, or to the Junior Golf Program at Searcy Country Club, 2729 W. Country Club Road, Searcy, AR 72143.

Keith will be remembered by his immediate family in a private celebration of life. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the service will be live streamed at 11:00am Saturday, January 16, 2021 at parkavenuebaptist.org.

Please sign the online guest book for the Cole family at www.powellfuneralhome.net.

Rest In Peace, Keith.

Tribute Wall

JT

“*Joan, we are so sorry to hear of Keith's passing. Praying for comfort and strength that only God can give. Love you. Jerry and Glynda Turley*

Jerry and Glynda Turley - January 21, 2021 at 09:04 PM

LC

“*Always a delight to be around and a great friend for these past 66 years. He and Joan are the best ; prayers for Joan and the family . Larry Crabtree*

Larry W. Crabtree - January 20, 2021 at 12:32 AM

MZ

“*Condolences to all the Cole Family. His grandsons up here in Northwest Arkansas are great young men. Thinking of them during this time.*

Matt Zimmerman - January 18, 2021 at 12:31 AM

WT

“*Our youngest daughter was adopted and when she was 10 years old she wanted to buy her biological Mother a Christmas present and when she found the necklace she wanted to buy, it was more money than she had , so Keith talked to her and they agreed on the amount she had brought with her and I will never forget how kind he was to her and to all my family for many years. He will be missed by so many.*

Willette Thomas - January 17, 2021 at 07:23 PM

CH

“ Oh my! What a loss.
Keith was my childhood friend, fraternity brother and roommate til we both married.
A true friend, and honest to the core.
I loved him dearly.

cliff hoofman - January 17, 2021 at 08:42 AM

JM

“ We are deeply saddened to lose such a dear friend. Keith was such a kind & gentle soul and just had a way of making one feel special when in his presence. He was one of our very favorite friends in Searcy & will be sadly missed by all those who knew & loved him. We are blessed to be left with so many precious memories of him & that infectious laugh will never be forgotten! Our deepest sympathy to Joan, Brian & all the rest of family. May God bless you all & comfort you during this time. 🙏❤️🙏

Jo Ann & Jim McCoy - January 16, 2021 at 02:20 PM

PH

“ Joan & Brian, I am so sorry to hear this sad news. Keith was a wonderful person, kind and always smiling. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers goes out to you and all of the family.
Penny Wagner Hagerstown

Penny Wagner Hagerstrom - January 16, 2021 at 01:41 PM

JS

“ Joan and Brian, I'm very sorry for your loss. Keith was a wonderful man, full of humor and compassion. He will b missed by all who knew him. Love and prayers for comfort to you and your family.
June

june stewart - January 16, 2021 at 11:42 AM

JM

“ Keith was a friend to both of us for many years. He was a great, gentle and caring person. Our prayers are with Joan, Brian and all of the family and friends. Rest In Peace. 🙏❤️

judy southerland maddox - January 16, 2021 at 11:41 AM

RR

“ It's so comforting to read all the wonderful remembrances friends are posting about Keith. He was a gracious and kind man and we have enjoyed his many stories from time to time as well.

We send our deepest condolences to Joan, Brian and the Grandsons and their families. We know he will be terribly missed among family, friends and the community. He certainly left his mark and will be remembered in conversations far and wide.

Robbye and Wayne Ridout

Robbye Ridout - January 16, 2021 at 11:37 AM

JB

“ Heart broken for your loss, what a wonderful person, his mom and dad would be so proud. We are sending love and prayers, God Bless You Joan and the family

John and Lynda Bailey - January 16, 2021 at 11:26 AM

JB

“ John And Lynda Bailey lit a candle in memory of Herbert Keith Cole



John and Lynda Bailey - January 16, 2021 at 11:22 AM

TB

“ Tony Bailey lit a candle in memory of Herbert Keith Cole



Tony Bailey - January 16, 2021 at 11:13 AM

JR

“ Thanks for all the great times. John Rocka

John Rocka - January 16, 2021 at 11:00 AM

KW

“ Keith was such a kind and friendly person. We've always had a lot of respect and admiration for his family and still do. We have so many fun stories of Mike buying jewelry in his store over the years. I always loved beautiful gifts from Leslie's. He was cheerful and always smiling and his amazing laugh always made us laugh along. He will be missed in our community very much. He was one of the good guys.

With much love and prayers for Joan, Brian, and family,

Kim and Mike Wise

Kim Wise - January 16, 2021 at 09:37 AM

BC

“ One of the nicest men i ever knew. I bought a lot of jewelry from him just because it was him selling it.

RIP

bob colford - January 15, 2021 at 11:37 PM

IG

“ One of the first people I met when I moved to Searcy, he and Joan were good neighbors and friends. They shared their dogs with us, especially Sebastian. Watched Brian grow up and they were great supportive parents. May he Rest In Peace and my sincere condolences to all of the family.
Irene Gray

Irene Gray - January 15, 2021 at 09:52 PM

HH

“ I can't believe that I am hearing that Keith has passed away. I never seen him with out a smile when I was in the store. He was always willing to talk to me and wanting to know how things were going. He was a great man and I am very sorry to hear he is gone but we know he is with the Lord. God bless the family and comfort and peace be with you.

Harold Huskey

Harold Huskey - January 15, 2021 at 09:49 PM

DL

“ Grew up with Keith. I lived on Lucy Street and he lived on Pleasure. What a neat and kind person. He will be remembered for his ability to make everyone around him feel special. So sad to see him leave so young. My sincere condolences to his family.

David Laffoon - January 15, 2021 at 09:24 PM

LL

“ I'll never forget Keith letting me buy jewelry with my allowance money as a little girl. My dad would bring me in week after week, and Keith was always so sweet to me and made me feel so special. I'm so happy to have known him and Mrs. Joan through church throughout my life. My prayers are with the family.-Lisa Lunceford

Lisa Lunceford - January 15, 2021 at 08:46 PM

PV

“ I just loved Keith. When Randy and I would visit the jewelry store Keith always treated use with respect and a little humor. He will be missed. No matter where we saw him in town he was always happy to see us.

pamela vondran - January 15, 2021 at 08:45 PM

DP

“ Keith Cole had the ability to make everyone feel like they were a good friend. If you did business with Keith, his word was gold. He was genuine, gentle and a gentleman. Joan and Bryan, you have our utmost sympathy and sorrow for this great loss. Rest in piece to a good man. - David and Gracie Pace

David & Gracie Pace - January 15, 2021 at 07:24 PM

BS

“ Keith gave me a part time job when I needed one and it turned into a full time job and a long time friendship. For 13 years we worked together daily and I learned so much from him. My heart is broken over the loss of this great man. Love and prayers to Joan and the family. Rest In Peace and love Keith.

Barbara Steward - January 15, 2021 at 06:22 PM

LK

“ Sending our love, friendship, and deepest condolences to Joan, Brian and all the family. We have some fond memories over the last 10+ years and we are blessed to have known him! Love you all!
Lori, Jason, Lanni, and Jack Keathley

Lori Keathley - January 15, 2021 at 06:16 PM

KS

“ Our deepest sympathy!
John and Kay Simpson

Kay Simpson - January 15, 2021 at 05:43 PM

TL

“ Joan, I am so sorry. Some of my best memories of Searcy involved you and Keith. Loved being able to take a vacation from my job to come work at the store. He will be missed.
Sending you much love and prayer.

Terri Langford - January 15, 2021 at 04:47 PM

LW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We are so thankful for the many years of friendship and Keith will always hold a special place in our hearts. -Joey and Leslie Wiggins

Leslie and Joey Wiggins - January 15, 2021 at 04:39 PM

DC

“ Donald & Jeanine Cadtleberry lit a candle in memory of Herbert Keith Cole



Donald & Jeanine Cadtleberry - January 15, 2021 at 04:37 PM

LN

“ He was a fine man and life long friend, I will miss him dearly. I am so sorry for you Joan, call me if I can ever be of assistance.
Larry Nokes



Larry Nokes - January 15, 2021 at 04:35 PM

EH

Keith was a long time friend. Always enjoyed visiting with him at the store in later years. Will miss him and his easy laughter. Sorry for the loss of this friend.

Elizabeth Heard - January 16, 2021 at 11:59 AM

AW

Joan I am so sorry for your loss. Keith was always so kind and gentlemanly to all he met. You never left a visit with Keith feeling bad about yourself. Tony and I will truly miss him.

Ann Wood - January 16, 2021 at 12:17 PM

TS

Mike, Joan, and Brian, praying for all the family. The service was very nice, thank you for streaming it. Terry Q. Simon

Terry Simon - January 16, 2021 at 01:03 PM

BD

Rodger and I are so sorry to hear of Keith's death. He was a great friend and a great person. He will be missed. Prayers for the family.

BARBARA DUNCAN - January 16, 2021 at 08:27 PM

JP

So sorry to hear of this loss. My thoughts and peace to Joan and family.

Judy Purnell - January 20, 2021 at 02:09 PM