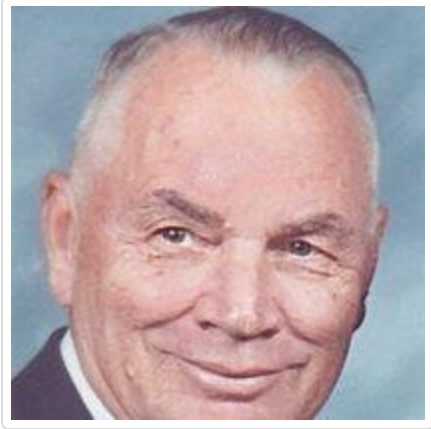




Keith Roland Baltz (W5WBA)

June 22, 1924 - March 4, 2014

Baltz, Keith Roland
(W5WBA)

June 22, 1924 - March 4, 2014

Born in Castalia, Iowa, to Ernst John and Anna (Schellhammer) Baltz, Keith spent his early years in the small town farming community. He graduated from Castalia High School and moved with his parents to California when World War II broke out. He was drafted into the US Army in 1943, he served in the CBI theatre at Dibrugarh, India, from 1944 to 1946. Returning to California, he helped his father build the family home, then began his college studies on the GI Bill. He transferred to the University of New Mexico in 1949 and received his degree in Industrial Arts Education in 1952. He met his wife, Barbara (Owens) at the First United Methodist Church Wesley Club in 1950, and they were married in 1951.

Keith's first job was with the Santa Fe Railway where he worked on the last steam engine before the railroad switched to diesel engines and downsized the workforce. Utilizing his background in Amateur Radio and electronics, he secured a job with Sandia Corporation where he was assigned to the Field Test Division and participated in Joint Task Force 8 and the live atmospheric nuclear tests. In 1971 he left Sandia and he and Barbara built and managed several rental houses. He joined BDM Corporation in 1974 and remained with the firm until retirement.

Actively involved in politics in the 60s and 70s, Keith ran for the State

Legislature in 1972 and was twice a delegate to the Republican National Conventions. He and Barbara were election officials for over 50 years. During these years, Keith was building their adobe home which was one of the first on the West Mesa. He was active in the CBI Veterans group and served as their first Commander. He is a member of the American Radio Relay League, Upper Rio FM Society, life member of the National Rifle Association, and the Two Som class at their church. Keith enjoyed backpacking, camping, and volunteering communication services for charity races and bike rides. A loving husband, playful father, and affectionate grandfather, Keith's wisdom and strength will be missed by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernst John and Anna (Schellhammer) Baltz, his brother Loyle, and stillborn twins Frederick and Ely Baltz. He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Barbara, children Ann Baltz Aks (David), David (Roxanne), Dale (Jaffa), Brian (Danielle); grandchildren, Julia Aks, Madeline, Vincent, Joseph, Monica Baltz, Keziah and Rachel Baltz, Samantha and Melanie Baltz; sister-in-law, Nancy Smith; and nieces and nephew Susan Hostetler, Alice Baltz, Carol Ammary, Larry Baltz, and Judy Stillwell, and Keri Sutter (Ross). A Celebration of Life will be held 2 pm, Sunday afternoon March 9, at First United Methodist Church, Fourth Street and Lead Avenue SW. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Keith's memory to First United Methodist Church, 314 Lead Avenue SW, NM, 87102. Please visit our online guestbook for Keith at www.FrenchFunerals.com

FRENCH – University
1111 University Blvd. NE
(505) 843-6333

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **9**. 2:00 PM (MT)

First United Methodist Church
314 Lead Ave. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Tribute Wall

RC

“ If anyone were to ask me to describe Keith, I'd say "Uniquely Individual". He was a man who saw the world through his own eyes and knew that the path he would take would many times leave him out of the main stream. That was all right with him and Barbara was a perfect match. No better supporter could anyone have. I remember when they first bought the property on the bluff overlooking the city and the river. Mom and dad came away shaking their heads, wondering what Keith was thinking. Me? Well heck, as a kid I thought it was a grand idea! I saw his and Barbara's adobe castle instantly! And I always enjoyed the Two-Som Class retreats and Keith with his Parachute Ham Radio. He was always most generous when it came to teaching interested youth in the working of the airways. I'll always remember this quiet and kind man with a smile! Thanks Keith! Blue Skies and Gentle Winds!

Richard Cook - March 09, 2014 at 10:02 AM

JD

“ My condolences to Barbara and the family. Keith was very instrumental in the direction I took in my career in regards to electronics and computers, and in my interest in Ham Radio. The Baltz's were one of our closest neighbors and friends when we were growing up. Keith always took an interest in us and included me in many of his Ham Radio activities, which I appreciated very much. I would often just drop by their house to see what Keith was working on in his shop, and he would gladly show me. In some ways Keith was like a second father to me. Even though I have not seen him in years, I will miss him.

Joe Dohle (WA5UKZ)
Aztec, NM

Joe Dohle - March 07, 2014 at 09:07 AM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Keith Roland Baltz (W5WBA).*



March 06, 2014 at 04:09 PM



“ *My condolences to you (Brian) and your mom.. I will never forget playing in the back yard with Brian amongst all of your dads stuff.. and I will surely never forget your dad. One of the nicest men I have ever met. He and my dad were friends and neighbors..My mom and dad also send their condolences to all your family.. Peace.... Your friend and Neighbor Carlos E. Lopez and Rey and Helen Lopez.*

Carlos Lopez - March 06, 2014 at 10:31 AM



“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*



Dante Gutierrez-Zamora - March 05, 2014 at 12:04 PM