



## Keith Eugene Heckler

March 8, 1967 - March 21, 2024

Keith Eugene Heckler, 57, of Dix, passed away on March 21, 2024.

He was born March 8, 1967, the son of Walt and Hazel (Raymer) Heckler. On September 30, 2017, he married Debby Bowdler, and she survives.

Keith served in the United States Army, and later worked as a guard at the Federal Penitentiary, until his retirement. He was an avid outdoorsman, and loved fishing, hunting, and boating. He was always one to tell a good joke.

In addition to his wife, Debby Heckler of Dix, and her sons, Jeremy and Alex Sandy of Dix, and her granddaughter Kyleigh Sinclair; he is survived by his mother, Hazel Heckler of Walnut Hill; sisters, Linda Soard and husband Carl of Villa Grove, Illinois, Connie Ward and husband Dan of Homer, Illinois; brother, Jonathan Heckler of Sesser; mother-in-law, Germaine Bowdler of Texico; sisters-in-law, Annette, Cindy, Gerri, Charlotte, and Stephanie; and brother-in-law, Sidney; many nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews; and many close friends, especially Rick Flanagan, and his fishing brother, Dave Rhodes.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Walt Heckler; an infant sister, Deborah Ann; and brother-in-law, Doug Ward.

Funeral Services for Mr. Heckler will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Boyd Christian Church, with Jeff Van Meter officiating. Burial will follow at Boyd Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday, March 26, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Boyd Christian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that everyone buy a child a fishing pole. Online condolences may be made at [www.osbornfuneral.com](http://www.osbornfuneral.com), or on the funeral home's Facebook page.

# Cemetery Details

## Boyd Cemetery

Dix, IL 62830

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 26.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Boyd Christian Church  
19844 N Boyd Ln  
Dix, IL 62830-3418  
(618) 735-2804

## Funeral Service

**MAR 27.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Boyd Christian Church  
19844 N Boyd Ln  
Dix, IL 62830-3418  
(618) 735-2804

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ I meet Keith at Ft Gordon. We became friends cause he said I looked like his brother. I lived in his trailer with him for about 8 months. Lost track as time went on . Just reconnected. He was my brother. Rest easy. He will be missed.

Dennis sylvester - March 28, 2024 at 12:42 AM

JC

“ Sorry for your loss



Johnluke Cater - March 26, 2024 at 08:26 PM

RG

“ I first met Kieth at Rome Grade Shcool in Dix Illinois a good friend I hated in the past years I couldn't find him. But he found me in 1996 I think we both became good friends because we were both adopted this world has lost a good man

Ron Greenwell - March 26, 2024 at 07:20 PM

GG

“ George G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Keith Eugene Heckler.

George G. - March 26, 2024 at 06:06 PM

BF

“ Barb & John Louden and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Keith Eugene Heckler.

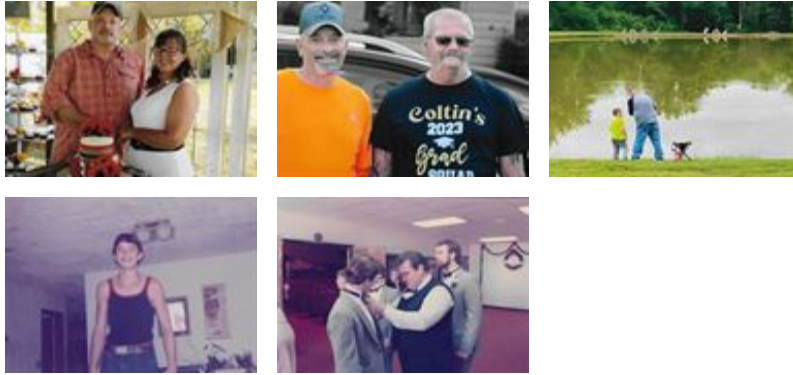


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**Barb & John Louden and family** - March 26, 2024 at 03:01 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**Osborn Funeral Home** - March 25, 2024 at 03:05 PM

DH

“ Keith was one of the good ones! I spent many mornings at deer camp with Keith. I actually taught Keith how to field dress one of his first deer.

He always had a funny joke helping to pass the hours out in the woods. RIP old friend, we'll meet again on the other side.

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**Dale Holman** - March 24, 2024 at 01:08 PM

RV

“ I met Keith when he was stationed at Ft Gordon in 1987. We worked together and became friends then. Time and distance took us to different places but we remained friends through those journeys. I was fortunate enough to reconnect with Keith years later. Rest easy old friend, your watch is over, we got it from here. RIP

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**Ray VanMeter** - March 24, 2024 at 10:57 AM

MD

“ I worked with Keith for several years at USP Marion. He was always a joy to be around and always kept us laughing and made us cheerful even during the ruff times. He will be missed so much.  
Mike Diercks

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**Mike Diercks** - March 23, 2024 at 08:06 PM