



## Alan K. Urschel

June 2, 1930 - February 15, 2018

Alan Keith Urschel was born in Urbana, Indiana on June 2nd, 1930 to Orville and Thelma Urschel. He passed away at Park Meadows Assisted Living in Overland Park, Kansas. Alan had a younger brother, Larry, and sister, Sue.

He grew up on the farm and before he could go to school he was milking cows. He grew up camping and coon hunting and getting into trouble with his younger brother Larry and two cousins, Bobby and Harold Christie. In high school, he was on the varsity basketball team, and had a fascination with radio. He built his own radio when he was 13 years old.

Growing up, he was a member of the Evangelical Church in Urbana. He was also a softball pitcher during his high school years and a crooner. He took voice and dance lessons and sang as a front man in the stylings of The Ink Spots, Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole. He eventually sang on stage and radio in Chicago, IL where he competed with Andy Williams and sang minstrel choir with his father Orville and his Uncle James Urschel as well.

In 1949, he joined the Army and was a member of the 101st Airborne, completing basic training at Camp Breckenridge in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. In addition to Camp Breckenridge, he attended training in Fort Hood, TX, where he was trained in marksmanship and as a radio operator in the 1st Cavalry. He was stationed overseas in Korea and was involved in many campaigns

including the Battle of Chiyong-Ni. It was during this engagement and another that he was combat wounded on two occasions. He was awarded two Purple Heart Medals for his service, as well as medals for meritorious service and marksmanship. It was on the battlefield that Alan committed his life to Christ being inspired by the nurses of the Salvation Army.

Upon returning from the war, he attended Valparaiso Tech in Indiana and received his technical degree in radio operations and communications.

Alan was a driven young man and landed his first job with Philco and began his career as a microwave engineer where he was responsible for microwave station and antenna install and operations across the country, state to state.

While he was doing work in Beatrice, Nebraska with his friend and co-worker Perry Deaton, he met his future bride and wife of 47 years, Ethel Kiester. Ethel was a Geneva girl who was teaching elementary school in Beatrice at the time with her good friend and co-worker Joann. Alan, Perry, Ethel & Joann all decided to go on a date together, Alan & Joann together and Perry & Ethel together. While on the date, Perry & Ethel danced and then Ethel and Alan danced. Ethel retold the story that Alan sang into her ear while they danced and sounded like Nat King Cole and that was it. Six weeks later on November 15, 1953, Alan and Ethel were married in the United Methodist Church in Geneva.

On August 2, 1954, their first child, Kimberlee Paige, was born. Alan, Ethel and Kim travelled extensively from state to state eventually settling in Dallas, Texas. Alan worked with Collins Radio as a Communications Engineer for the next 13 years. During this time their second child, Scott Alan, was born in 1957. Seven years later their third child, Robert Harding, was born in 1964. In 1970, Alan and family moved to Palo Alto California where he was employed as a marketing sales executive in San Francisco. At this time, Alan discovered

he had a passion for sailing. He was a member of the Palo Alto Yacht Club and he and daughter Kimberlee sailed competitively in the San Francisco Bay. Two years later, Alan was offered an opportunity as a Vice President of the Midwest Region for Southern Telephone Supply in Lincoln Nebraska and the family moved back to Ethel's family home in Geneva, Nebraska. In 1979 he was appointed President of Southern Telephone Supply. He ended his career as President of Alltel Supply, which is now part of Verizon Wireless.

Alan was passionate and driven to succeed whether it was coaching his son Scott to a basketball tournament championship while in Dallas or the Geneva girl's softball team. He had a passion for painting and making wine. His greatest passion was realized in later years and that was a passion for Christ, particularly, sharing that passion with others.

Alan was preceded in death by his parents Orville and Thelma; and his beloved wife Ethel (Kiestler).

He is survived by his children, Kimberlee & John Hixon, Scott & Marilyn Urschel and Robert Urschel all of Overland Park, Kansas; grandchildren, Nathaniel Alan Hixon, Benjamin Scott Urschel, Samuel James Urschel, Kelly Cole Urschel, Molly Elizabeth Urschel and Lauren Belle Urschel; brother Larry Urschel of Wabash, Indiana who passed away 3 days after Alan; and sister Susan and Dean Wilhelm of Roann, Indiana.

A Funeral Service for Alan was held on Friday, February 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva. Pastor Michelle Gowin officiated the service. Nathaniel Hixon provided the prelude and postlude music. He also accompanied Lauren & Kelly Urschel in the singing of "Flight," "I See The Lord" and "I Get A Kick Out Of You."

Pallbearers for the service included Todd Dinslage, Mark O'Brien, Lance Fiala,

Jon Miller, Rod Norrie, and Bill Biegert. Honorary Pall Bearer was Bill Lauber. A Graveside Service was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery with Military Rites performed by Geneva VFW Post 7102 and the Nebraska Military Honor Guard. Farmer & Son Funeral Home conducted the Funeral arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com) Memorials are suggested to the Fillmore County Legion Riders and the Salvation Army.

# Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Janet and I want to extend our prayers to the Urschel Family in regard to the passing of Alan. We have many good memories that will be with us always.

Sincerely, Janet and Dan Bryan

Daniel E. Bryan Jr. - March 02, 2018 at 01:05 PM

JE

“ I never knew Alan as I am a bit younger, but I did know of his parents since my mother grew up just down the road from the Urschels in Urbana. I knew Larry and his family since they lived in Urbana. What an amazing life Alan led. I'm sure his family will miss him greatly as will Larry's. God bless you all. What a gift his life has been to all of you.

Judy Eltzroth  
Urbana, Indiana

Judy Eltzroth - February 28, 2018 at 12:09 AM



“ 33 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - February 24, 2018 at 08:59 AM

CK

“ Alan was an amazing man whom I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with. We would challenge each other in different subjects and debate the issues. He did share his love of God with me along with a couple of bible verses. Though your loss is great, may you be assured that he is home with his savior and dancing with the love of his life again. My sympathy to all of you. Cristy Koch. Lab phlebotomist at Fillmore County Hospital

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**cristy koch** - February 21, 2018 at 11:35 PM

DM

“ Our sympathy to you, Scott, from the Moravecs.

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**Dorothy Moravec** - February 21, 2018 at 10:26 PM



“ Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alan K. Urschel.



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February 21, 2018 at 06:29 PM

BL

“ Alan was tough enough, or did not know what he was getting onto, when he took his sons and the younger Lauber boys {Brad, Bryan, and Bill} to 6 Flags over Texas. We had a great time because Alan made sure we rode every ride in that huge park. We were all shot by the end of the day. If we were he had to be. I will never forget the day but the end was special. We took Alan's advice and jump the fence to get to the car. We could see it but would have had to walk a mile to get to the exit. as a young kid i thought Alan was the "coolest" dad I had ever met.

Then there was the "Band" in the basement. My dad kicked out the soon to be band out of our basement because he said that dam rock and roll music was making the nails come out of the house. So the band was moved to Scott's house. Alan and Ethel { we called her Eth} were nice enough to put up with all of us. which was more than the band. I was just a groupie for example, but was always welcome. Alan seemed to understand that this new "Rock N Roll cr@%" was the new way we kids expressed ourselves. He would come down and listen once and a while and just talk to us. He was cool, even Groovy man

And cant forget him running around Geneva after he lost Eth. He would always give the both fists in the air, the Rocky pose, as his own personal wave. At least to me. We had many good talks over lunch until he moved to be closer to his kids.

I could go on but just want you guys, Kim, Scott, and Rob, to know that he was a very positive influence to me, as was your mother. Have missed your mom for a while now and will miss Alan also. They are together again. May god bless them and you guys forever and ever. Amen

Brad

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Brad A. Lauber - February 20, 2018 at 07:37 PM

LB

“ *Kim, Scott and Rob,*  
*I was so sorry to hear about your dads passing. Whenever I was back home for a visit and would run into your Dad, I was always guaranteed to receive an "it's great to see you" hug from him. It was and is such a special memory. May your memories of him bring you comfort during the days and weeks to come. Keeping you in my prayers.*  
*Lorri Barbur Burns*

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**lorri burns** - February 20, 2018 at 04:10 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Alan K. Urschel.*



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February 19, 2018 at 10:43 PM

MR

“ *Mark & Sarah Reinsch lit a candle in memory of Alan K. Urschel*



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**Mark & Sarah Reinsch** - February 19, 2018 at 10:03 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Alan K. Urschel.*



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February 19, 2018 at 09:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Alan K. Urschel.*



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February 19, 2018 at 12:07 PM



“ *Sympathy Fruits Abound was purchased for the family of Alan K. Urschel.*



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February 17, 2018 at 11:06 AM