

Nominees information

Name: PAUL + MARY ANN KEITH
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821
Phone Number: [Redacted]
E-mail: [Redacted]

Nominator's information

Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]
City, State, Zip: [Redacted]
Phone Number: [Redacted]
E-mail: [Redacted]

NOMINATION (Please Print):

I nominate Paul + Mary Ann Keith for the (please circle one below) Award
Neighborhood Leadership Neighborhood of the Year Neighborhood-Community Building
Business-Neighborhood Partnership Good Neighbor Community Partner
Difference Maker Rising Star

Signature of Nominator [Redacted] Date 3/20/2012

Before submitting a Nomination Form, please make sure you have completed the following:

NARRATIVE: Describe the action, activity or event which you believe warrants the nominee to receive this award. Please include the following in your description:

- What action, activity or event performed Indicate when and where the actions, activity or event took place
- Describe who benefited from the action, activity or event

ATTACHMENTS: To help support your nomination, have you attached

- Pictures Newspaper Clippings Other
- Letters of Support 3 Video



March 12, 2012

Mr. John H. Ruffin
Neighborhood Coordinator
Neighborhood Services Department
102 N. Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Re: Nomination for Good Neighbor Award – Mary Ann Keith & Paul Keith

Dear Mr. Ruffin:

I am writing to you to nominate Mrs. Mary Ann Keith for the Good Neighbor Award. However, it is difficult to nominate Mary Ann without nominating her husband, Paul, as well. Paul and Mary Ann perform good deeds every day of the week. Mary Ann was a school teacher for 40 years and Paul worked at the University of Illinois, but and a BIG BUT, they are NOT RETIRED. Their unrelenting spirits that carry them through the day are to be admired. They travel from city to city trying to find that perfect “something” for someone in need. As you can see from the pictures they “scramble” all day long and well into the evening hours. They have a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. You would think this would keep them very busy, but not by a long shot! They have embraced our neighborhood and anyone in our community! They are the first to volunteer and the first to arrive at your home if you are in need. If there is a cause which requires their support, they jump right in to lend a helping hand.

Last year, my husband, who was our sole means of support for our family, suffered a severe back injury at work. When he had surgery, MaryAnn and Paul immediately went into action, began calling, praying, sending humorous cards, food, and most importantly, visited with our family. They supported our family by knowing what to do, when to make visits, and somehow knew what to bring when we were out of things. They even brought a baggie with parking money for the parking garage! A person might think of sending a card when someone is ill, but do you think of giving parking money when someone has surgery?! Well, Paul and MaryAnn do! Their acts of a kindness last year were immeasurable!

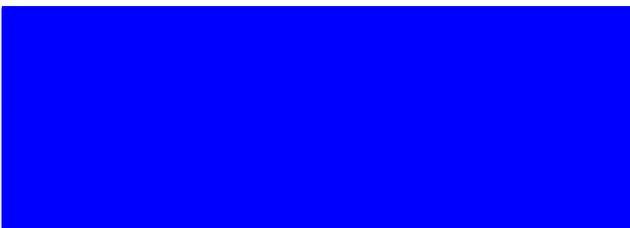
I must say, the requirement for this letter is for an activity in the last year. However, I should mentioned that in the past, Paul and Mary Ann have supported us through many hard times, even when Mary Ann had cancer. This did not curtail her acts of kindness in any way, even though I know she did not feel well. She and Paul have always been amazing human beings and their love and caring for each other, as well as others is something to behold. There is no Paul without MaryAnn . . . and there is no MaryAnn without Paul. They truly are one.

We only have one warning about Paul and Mary Ann . . . if you know they are coming to your home, clean the fridge because you'll need the room . . . and don't forget the Kleenex because you'll need something to catch the tears from the laughter that they will bring to you! It is so healing.

Not knowing how to ever properly thank them for their kindness, we thought nominating Mary Ann and Paul for the Good Neighbor Award was very befitting. They will never realize how appreciative we are for their kindness, and not only from our family, but our entire neighborhood. Never asking for anything in return, and wanting to stay behind the scenes when helping, this award could embarrass them. We hope not, because they truly are our angels and our lives would not be the same without them. If any person in our community has the pleasure of meeting Paul and Mary Ann - their lives will be changed forever – they both are that special.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Enclosures

Sensamblers







March 20, 2012

Mr. John H. Ruffin
Neighborhood Coordinator
Neighborhood Services Department
102 N. Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Re: Nomination for Good Neighbor Award – Mary Ann Keith/Paul Keith

Dear Mr. Ruffin:

We are writing to you to nominate Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keith for the Good Neighbor Award. During the previous year, we were honored to receive a heartfelt kindness from Mary Ann and Paul. MaryAnn and Paul always put everyone else first before themselves, especially those in our neighborhood.

Recently, [REDACTED] went to Afghanistan to work as a contractor. While he was in Afghanistan the Keiths sent a “care” package to [REDACTED] and every time, they gave one to [REDACTED] also. MaryAnn and Paul sent many of these care packages to [REDACTED] and the troops in Afghanistan. Mary and Paul went to Sam’s and purchased large bags of candy and utilized the candy as bubble wrap to surround the real gift inside!

For many years, Paul and Mary Ann knew that [REDACTED] acted as Santa for all the children in our family and in our neighborhood. During the Christmas season, Mary Ann felt it was important for [REDACTED] to carry on the tradition while in Afghanistan. Mary Ann and Paul sent a red Santa hat for [REDACTED] and a green Elf hat for his partner. [REDACTED] and his partner, through the gifts from Mary Ann and Paul were able to bring good cheer to their fellow contractors and the troops. (You should understand that the contractors and troops were in the most desolate areas of Afghanistan where there were no outposts; it was nothing but dirt and mountains.) In a barren part of the world, Paul and Mary Ann’s acts of kindness meant so much to all of them.

Mary Ann and Paul’s support to [REDACTED] as well as our family was overwhelming. Their continued support made our year-long test easier to endure. Mary Ann and Paul always came to our home with a smile and a helpful offering. As the family was living minute by minute, their daily visits helped shorten our very long days in Randy’s absence.

When [REDACTED] was due to be home in 48 hours, a news release appeared on the television. It stated that there was a suicide bomber who had breached the compound at Bagram AFB. [REDACTED] was there and preparing to come home. Knowing that, Mary Ann and Paul

immediately came to our home and brought bread and soup for our family. They stayed late into the evening to comfort us.

Mary Ann & Paul have always been so enthusiastic about supporting others and we are just a few of the many who are grateful recipients of their unwavering friendship and love. We would appreciate your consideration of both Mary Ann and Paul for this award. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Encl.



March 7, 2012

Dear Mr. Ruffin,

We are writing this letter in support of the nomination of Mary Ann and Paul Keith for the Star Award.

We live in the neighborhood with Mary Ann and Paul. They are the seniors of the neighborhood, but they put us all to shame with their energy to give a helping hand to us all and to anyone in need.

On November 21, 2011 our son and his wife had their second child. The following day our daughter-in-law had to have emergency surgery. The hot line of the neighborhood soon reached Mary Ann and Paul. The next morning Mary Ann arrived with a huge plate of wonderful, homemade cookies. I suspect these cookies were for her own family's Thanksgiving treats, but instead they came to us. Our son and his wife are Catholic and Mary Ann contacted a monastery in southern Illinois where the monks pray twenty-four hours a day and she put our daughter-in-law on their prayer chain. That meant a great deal to our son, his wife and family.

That is only one specific example of Mary Ann and Paul's acts of kindness where they go above and beyond the call of duty. Whenever I see them driving down the street I have the thought, "I wonder what they're up to today and who they are helping?" That is not a thought you have about everybody you see, but it is the thought we all get when we see them driving down the street. We've all had "super hero" thoughts of them and chuckle when we see them at the door---we can almost see their super hero capes flying in the wind. They are there at the door with a meal and many times I know they have not taken the time to eat themselves. Most seniors have to eat by 4:30 p.m.---but not Mary Ann and Paul. They don't eat until their mission is completed. Their hearts are big and they put others before themselves. That is the way they live on a daily basis, not just once or twice a year. They are committed to their friends and they show up with whatever is needed for the situation.

Enclosed is a picture of Mary Ann with the Miller High Life guy at the Meijer store in Champaign. She was at the store and happened to run into him that day and the News Gazette get her picture. If she would have known in advance that she was going to meet him, she would have taken him a peach pie I'm sure. She gives a lot of pie away!! Just look at her smile. Can't you see some mischief showing through. She does many good deeds and always throws in some humor in the mix. She loves to make people laugh and in today's world that is really needed and appreciated.

They have touched the lives of many of us and I know their love, support, and kindness go well beyond our neighborhood. As I said before, they put the needs of others before their own needs. What an example they have been for us all. We love them and certainly feel they deserve the Star Award and a place in heaven. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sharing the high life



Mary Ann Keith of Champaign reacts to meeting Windell Middlebrooks, the actor in the Miller High Life ads, at the Meijer store in Champaign on Friday. Middlebrooks is touring central Illinois cities to meet and greet fans while promoting Miller's new ad campaign.

Robin Scholz/The News-Gazette