



What Veterans Say About Keith Pekau

*As the Commander of the 335th Tactical Fighter Squadron, it was my honor to be Keith's Commanding Officer for several years. Keith's tenacity, initiative, integrity and leadership made him an exceptional Air Force officer and an outstanding Weapons Systems Officer in the F-15E Strike Eagle. Keith not only excelled in the air but he was my first choice for all the tough jobs in the Squadron because I knew he would get the job done right the first time with class. Keith is always at the top no matter what he was asked to do. It is these attributes that should make him your choice for your Mayor. He will truly put people over politics and watch out for you and Orland Park. **Major General Mike DeCuir, USAF Retired***

*Having served in the 335th Fighter Squadron with Keith Pekau and deploying around the world together, I'm not at all surprised to find out that he is once again seeking an opportunity to serve others. Keith was a standout military leader and selfless team player known for his incredible talent in developing technological solutions to our toughest challenges. As a General Officer with almost 30 years of service and having known him for over 2 decades, I can attest to the fact that truly Keith exemplifies the Air Force's core values of Integrity, Service and Excellence. **Major General John Quintas, USAF***

*I had the distinct pleasure of flying with and serving alongside Keith in critical military operations immediately following Desert Storm. I, along with his senior leaders and commanders, could always count on Keith's skill, integrity and leadership to get the job done, no matter how demanding. Simply put, Keith always delivers big time results! **Lt. General, Norman 'Storman' Seip, USAF Retired***

*With his service to our nation and now as Chairman of Illinois Vets4Energy, Keith Pekau has been a strong leader for our country. As a decorated combat veteran, Keith understands that national security is about more than military strength. For a country to be secure, it must also possess energy security. They are interlinked and vital to a strong nation. **Rear Admiral Don Loren United States Navy (retired), former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense***

*I've have known Keith Pekau for over twenty years both as an F-15E Instructor and USAF Officer and as a business entrepreneur. You will find no better man who is a dedicated professional with high moral values, an unwavering commitment to family, and the drive to succeed regardless of the obstacles in front of him. He sets and holds himself to the highest standards as well as those he leads or works with. His commitment to hard work is unparalleled and defines his steadfast character to make the world a better place so everyone can reach his or her goals. Keith Pekau is an honest and trustworthy individual that looks to bring out the best in everyone while holding individuals accountable for their actions and words. I strongly support Keith Pekau for Mayor of Orland Park, IL. **Richard Denee, Colonel, USAF (retired)***

*I served with Keith Pekau for four years at two different bases. The Air Force philosophy is "service before self" - Keith embodied that philosophy on a daily basis! The citizens of Orland Park will be well served with him as their next mayor! **Gary MacFarquhar, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (retired)***

Fighter pilots rely on each other during training and combat, Keith embodies the qualities foundational to the trust earned between comrades. Speaking your mind, honoring your word, service to the greater good, Keith



*lived these hallmarks of the modern warrior scholar. Keith trusted and was trusted by the team to honor his commitments in public and private. The values he exhibited in the service will serve his constituents as well. **Mark Mouw, Colonel, USAF (retired)***

It is with great honor and pleasure that I write to affirm Keith Pekau's exemplary military service. Keith and I served as instructors together at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base from 1995 -1998 in the 333rd Fighter Squadron responsible for formal training in the F-15E. Keith excelled in every aspect as a fighter Weapon Systems Operator (WSO) illustrated by his recognition as the top graduate from navigator training, Paul F. Lorence recipient (top graduate for fighter navigator training), youngest WSO to become mission ready, and the youngest Instructor Weapon Systems Officer in the F-15E Strike Eagle.

As an Instructor Weapon Systems Officer with me in the 333rd, Keith's commitment to excellence was infectious to both students and instructors alike. Keith's integrity, selfless sacrifice and commitment to excellence were the cornerstone of his commitment to our nation and his service in the United States Air Force as a combat decorated veteran. During my service with Keith as instructors, I was both personally and professionally overwhelmed at Keith's commitment to the profession of arms and his sacrifice in service to our great nation.

*I have absolutely no doubt that Keith will serve the constituents of Orland Park with the same fervor, commitment, and integrity that I witnessed in him as a fellow Air Force officer and instructor. I regret that I do not stand to benefit from his public service as the mayor of Orland Park, but I am proud and honored to convey my highest endorsement for my friend and fellow officer Keith Pekau. **Greg "Slim" Marlar Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret)***

*I am extremely honored to endorse Keith in his journey to once again serve his nation as your Orland Park Mayor. Leadership is that unique ability to positively influence those you are entrusted to serve. For thirty-plus years in the US Air Force, I have served under, served with, and lead some of our nation's strongest leaders. Our core values are simple: integrity, service, and excellence. I had the distinct opportunity to see Keith grow as a leader, patriot, and selfless servant. His integrity is unparalleled. His service and dedication to a greater good is exemplified through his military sacrifice, business acumen and dedication to family. I personally know his drive for excellence whether competing for top honors flying the F-15E Strike Eagle or spending countless hours to complete his MBA from Duke University while maintaining his military readiness. Influential leaders must be able to build a stronger "TEAM" to accomplish the vision necessary for success. "TEAM" success relies on four basic attributes: Trust, Empowerment, Accountability, and Mutual Respect. Keith personifies these attributes. He understands trust flows both ways, that empowerment will drive innovation, accountability will produce results, and mutual respect will build community. Orland Park you should be as honored as I am to have Keith lead your community. **Joseph H. Justice III, Colonel, USAF (Retired)***

I have known Keith for over 25 years, first meeting him when we both trained as students and later served in the US. Air Force as flight crew in support of Operation Southern Watch in the Middle East. Keith was always professional and well respected among his peers. His enormous talent led to him becoming an F-15E flight instructor responsible for the training and development of new students. Keith has maintained this focus and



*professionalism throughout his civilian life and has a great future ahead of him. He has consistently sought out and excelled in leadership positions, has an outstanding work ethic, insight and a conscientious vision to improve his community. It is with these personal attributes that I can without hesitation vouch for Keith. He is a great asset to Orland Park and I have full confidence in his abilities. **Deric Dobbs, Captain, USAF (retired)***

Keith and I have remained in close contact since we started our Air Force careers together in Officer Training School in 1989. We attended flight training together as peers, served alongside each other as aviators at home and in our nation's wars overseas and have continued to fellowship with each other's families in NC and in Orland Park.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time serving our nation with Keith and came to know him as a truly valuable asset to absolutely any team. He is honest, dependable, and incredibly hard-working. Beyond that, he has impressive people skills and a calm demeanor which allowed him to manage emergency situations and critical events with an even disposition. Keith displayed great leadership during combat operations and I always could count on his integrity and level headed decision making ability. As a peer, we encountered many tough and sometimes life-threatening situations and Keith always found a way to fight through the tough times, develop solid solutions and always maintain a can-do attitude. That is the type of proven leader I would want representing my interests.

I also knew Keith outside of work as a team-mate in basketball and softball and as a fellow coach as he volunteered his time to coach youth sports. I admired his dedication to teaching and how he enjoyed helping the children learn. His drive to make them excel was inspiring. He gave of his time and his talents to help others improve and have fun. He exemplified putting others before yourself, especially when he coached teams that his children were not even playing on. Service before self was not only an Air Force core value, it was a trait that Keith lived at work and play.

Keith Pekau is a straight shooter. He researches and finds the facts of a situation and has the awareness to utilize resources to develop solid and successful solutions. He is a true team player, and always manages to foster positive discussions and bring the best out of others. He successfully managed military equipment and operating budgets and displayed the same fiscal responsibility as a business owner. Keith consistently took on responsibilities of positions above him to do what was best for the organization although he did not receive anything for shouldering that added responsibility. I observed Keith consistently studying, mentoring and contributing to everyone around him. He is trustworthy and can be counted on to do what he says he will do- he is a man of his word.

*Without a doubt, I confidently recommend and endorse Keith Pekau for mayor of Orland Park. As a dedicated and experienced servant of our nation, I know that he will be a great leader, servant and asset to your town. **Frank Cragin Pearson II, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Retired)***

Keith Pekau has been a close friend of mine since before we flew together in DESERT STORM. Because our morals and values are so similar with respect to defending this great nation and keeping America free, we have kept in touch over the years. Keith has always been a man of honor and always does what is right with regards to himself or others. Although I am not in the area where Keith is running for office, I definitely would endorse him, help him win, and make sure that he has the opportunity to continue to help others



through public office. Vote for Keith "PK" Pekau, you'll be glad you did!!! . **James McCullough, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Retired)**

Keith and I began a lasting 28-year friendship when we trained together to fly the F-15E Strike Eagle. This was a highly demanding and competitive training program and Keith stood out among the most capable and dedicated Air Force aviators. After graduation we served together as operational aircrew flying combat missions over Iraq. It was during these stressful missions that I witnessed Keith's extraordinary ability to assess a difficult situation, make sense of it, quickly build a plan, and then logically and safely execute it. Over the years I've admired Keith's personal commitment to family, friends and community; from coaching youth sports to remaining committed to fellow Veterans, he's dedicated himself to serving others.

*I offer my strongest personal endorsement for Keith Pekau as Mayor of Orland Park. He is a combat seasoned Veteran and experienced business leader with the highest level of personal integrity. I've watched him perform in day-to-day training as well as combat operations and his commitment to excellence far exceeds that of his peers. The same qualities that served him well as a combat aviator, business owner and consultant, will no doubt serve the citizens of Orland Park equally well. **Todd Boyd, Colonel, USAF (Retired)***

Keith Pekau is a man of strong principles, unquestionable character, and soft heart. He's been my best friend for nearly 40 years.

I've known Keith since 1977 where we met on the playground at Orland Junior High School. He was then, and remains to this day, a fierce and honorable competitor. Whether in basketball, wrestling or track, Keith pushed himself harder to be the best he could be. These traits served him well when he moved on to play baseball, basketball and golf at Sandburg.

Keith graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and joined the US Air Force. Anyone who knows Keith would not be surprised that he earned the right to fly in the world's most sophisticated fighting aircraft, the F15 E Strike Eagle. While I was floating in the Red Sea participating in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Keith was putting himself at great personal risk in the skies above me. Early in the war, when a short US victory was not assured, it gave me great confidence to know that men like Keith were willing to sacrifice everything for America. Keith's iron confidence, fun-loving demeanor, and natural leadership skills were recognized by leaders in the Air Force, leading to his selection to teach his craft to the next generation of Air Force F15 E navigators.

While in the Air Force, Keith earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Duke University as a Fuqua Scholar. During his early post- Air Force years as a strategic consultant, he helped businesses develop and execute growth and expansion strategies. These skills later enabled him to buy and grow two separate local small businesses.

*Keith has succeeded at every task to which he has laid his hand. From his humble beginnings, Keith has succeeded because he is genuine, honest, hard-working, willing to learn, and an advocate for the underdog. I have every confidence that Keith will continue to do great things as Mayor of Orland Park. **Tim Cole, Captain, United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps***