



## David Cairns

December 15, 1939 - February 23, 2022

David Glen Cairns, 82, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

David was born December 15, 1939, in Greenleaf, Kansas, the son of Melvin and Huldah Crain Cairns. He graduated from Greenleaf High School and in 1994, he earned an associate degree from Washburn University where he achieved a 4.0 GPA. David served in the United States Army and was stationed in France. He married Sheryl Johnson on April 7, 1962, in Topeka. He worked as a computer programmer and retired from Santa Fe Railroad after 43 years of service. Following David's retirement, he had a vineyard and grew over 20 varieties of grapes and was a member of the Kansas Grape Growers and Winemakers Association. He also enjoyed ski trips with his family and a large groups of friends and playing and coaching softball for over 50 years. David always had a smile on his face, was a hard worker that could fix anything, and was known as "Diamond Dave".

David is survived by his wife, Sheryl; children, Shelly Pruitt, D'Ann Miller, Carrie Land (Shawn), and Cory Cairns (Jenna); nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and brother, Stanley Cairns (Myrna). He was preceded in death by his brothers, John, Robert and Marvin Cairns.

Memorial service will be 10 a.m. Friday, March 11, 2022, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Inurnment will follow in Maple Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Shawnee County Girls Softball Association, and sent in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Cemetery Details

**Maple Hill Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Memorial Service

MAR 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Tribute Wall

BJ

“ Sheryl and family: I can't remember a time when Dave didn't have a smile, a chuckle, and a good word to extend to others. Helped pick grapes one year with him and come to appreciate the hard work and hours of labor that he put into a project he loved. Dave was responsible for teaching our granddaughter, Chelbe, how to pitch softball and she earned a scholarship to a community college because of Dave. He was a great guy and a mentor to many young athletes. So many were blessed to have his passion of softball passed on to other generations. Dave was the sweetest brother-in-law ever. I wish he was still here with all of us, but I feel great joy that he suffers no longer and enjoys the pleasures of heaven that he deserves. I have no doubt he is teaching the angels how to play ball. Rest in peace Dave. You will be missed by all.

Betty

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**Betty Johnson** - March 10 at 08:51 PM

GD

“ Dave was a great guy, a smile on his face and a cheerful greeting for all. If a man is measured by the number of friends he has, then Dave was a rich man indeed.

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**Gary Daily** - March 09 at 05:49 PM

JT

“ I'm SO sorry to hear about Dave passing. He was a fantastic person and friend to all who met him. Great advocate for Mens Fastpitch Softball in the Topeka area, until the days it slowly faded out and went away. The last meeting we had trying to revive the dying Mens league in Topeka ended up being just Dave and I and the Parks and Rec person. That was about the only time I can remember ever seeing Dave look sad as we walked out talking about how great a game it was. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Jeff Tarwater

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**Jeff Tarwater** - March 09 at 03:47 PM

JW

“ Our heartfelt condolences to the Cairns family on Daves passing. He was a great man with many friends. He was instrumental in promoting the fledging wine and grape growing industry in Kansas. Like many others, he got us started making wine and growing grapes. He had that wonderful smile and was always pleasant in good times and bad. Jane and I send you our thoughts and prayers.

*Joe and Jane Weiler*

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**Joe Weiler** - March 07 at 10:31 AM

SJ

“ My condolences to Sheryl, Shelly, D"Ann, Carrie, and Cory. I was so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I, of course, first met Dave at the girls' softball diamonds. He and I served on the board and spent many hours with softball at Lake Shawnee. He donated many years to Shawnee County Girls' Softball coaching and working to improve the complex. His smile and personality made him popular with the girls he coached and the people he came in contact with at the diamonds. When Shelly played for me on the Dingbats I came to know all of you. You have a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Hang on to all your fond memories, as he's always watching over each of you. Shirley Johanssen

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**Shirley Johanssen** - March 01 at 10:52 PM

JT

“ I remember that smile. He was such a nice man, many great memories of him from my time playing softball at Lake Shawnee.

*Jannie Brady Taylor*

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**Jannie Taylor** - February 28 at 06:30 PM

KB

“ Cairns family, the Knowlton (Berroth) family is so saddened to hear of Dave's passing. His support of his family in all they were involved in was one of the many things we remember about him. We are thinking of and praying for you all.

*Dick & Shaaron Knowlton, Kristi Berroth & Kraig Knowlton*

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**Kristi B.** - February 28 at 06:05 PM

AD

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I have very fond memories of playing softball, Carrie, at Lake Shawnee with your dad as the coach and you as my catcher! Oh, how I miss those times! It was such a fun atmosphere any time Dave was involved and I do remember a lot of laughter any time he was around. Life is about making precious memories, and I have some great ones from knowing him. He will be missed.

*Alison Parker Davis*

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**Alison Davis** - February 28 at 04:53 PM

SK

“ Heartfelt condolences to the Cairns family. Dave was a great supporter of Highland CC and our efforts to teach grape growing and winemaking in Kansas. Dave was a good friend, and we will miss him greatly.

*Scott Kohl and the Highland V&E Team*

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**Scott Kohl** - February 28 at 04:17 PM

ED

“ My sincere condolences to the Cairns Family. I enjoyed playing fastpitch softball with Dave and the Grapevine team. Many great memories.

*Ed Smith*

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**Eduardo** - February 28 at 01:44 PM

CM

“ My sincerest condolences to the Cairns Family. I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying for comfort and peace for your family.

*Cindy Middleton*



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**Cindy Middleton** - February 28 at 01:02 PM

PM

“ We wish to express our sincere condolences to Sheryl and the Cairn's family. Have known Dave for a number of years and enjoyed his company very much. He was very pleasant and had a great smile. Enjoyed coaching the American Legion Post 74 baseball team with Dave, and his son Cory being on the team. Dave was always joking around and kept everyone's spirits up. There were many good times with the team, especially on our road trips.

*Dave will be greatly missed.*

*Sincerely,*

*Pat Mulligan and Family*

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**Patrick Mulligan** - February 27 at 04:27 PM

MG

“ Patti and I are so saddened to hear of the Passing of a wonderful gentleman and devoted husband , father and grandfather. David was so supportive of his special family. I always remember David coming to TW girls BB games with his sack of popcorn and supporting our teams. David Always had a smile and was always willing to help to whomever needed it. He was the role model that parents should have with their family and his positive attitude he always showed. We are praying for the Cairns family David may be gone from sight but not in our hearts Love you all. Mike &Patti Goehring

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**mike Goehring** - February 27 at 10:59 AM

DA

“ My condolences to your family. I never saw my cousin when he wasn't smiling, sometimes with a hearty laugh. He exuded his zest for life in his family, his work, and mentoring his teams. The world has lost a dear man, but heaven gained one and enfolds him.

*Love and prayers,*

*Deanne Autry*

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**Deanne Autry** - February 27 at 12:48 AM

TF

“ Terry and Heidi Francis and Family purchased the Garden Accent Stone - 'Wherever a beautiful soul...' for the family of David Cairns.



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**Terry and Heidi Francis and Family** - February 26 at 02:33 PM

TF

“ The Cairn's Family,

*My sincere condolences to the Cairn's families. I am very sorry for your loss. I spent many summer weekends with Dave and Cory playing fastpitch softball. Those are awesome memories I will never forget. He dedicated himself to our team which was greatly appreciated. I will always love the time I got to spend with Dave and Cory. Dave was definitely a special person to many people!  
God Bless the Cairn's family.  
RIP Dave*

*Sincerely,  
Terry Francis*

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**Terry Francis** - February 26 at 02:21 PM

PN

“ Dear Mrs. Cairns and family,

*Deepest sympathies on the passing of your dear husband and father. He really did have that one in a million smile that was reflected in each his girls' smiles. Praying God's comfort and peace to you in the days ahead.*

*Sincerely,  
Paige (Myers) Noss  
TWHS '85*

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**Paige Noss** - February 26 at 10:37 AM

KS

“ To Sheryl and family, so sorry for your loss. Dave was a great coach and made my job covering softball so much fun. It was great to get to know you as neighbors as well.

*Karen Sipes*

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**Karen Sipes** - February 26 at 09:57 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don McCutcheon - February 25 at 08:23 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don McCutcheon - February 25 at 07:32 PM



“ Dave was a wonderful neighbor. We could always rely on seeing him working with grapes and eating at the Cafe. He was a joy and always had a kind word to share. He will be missed by many.  
Kevin and Diane Wilcox

Diane Wilcox - February 25 at 11:52 AM



“ To Dave's family, thank you for sharing him with us. I'm proud to have been part of his early coaching days. He took a gaggle of preteen girls and taught us softball and life lessons too! Sportsmanship, hustle, & teamwork were high on his list. I cannot look back on childhood memories without seeing our many summers of softball. I can even vividly recall our road-trip to Greensburg for a weekend tournament. May your faith & good memories hold him forever in your heart.

Zoe Seymour  
Fountain Hills, Arizona

Zoe Seymour - February 25 at 07:01 AM



“ We are very sorry to learn of Dave's death. Please accept our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sheryl and the Family. Love & Prayers,  
Judy and Bill Broaddus

Judy WoodyBroaddus - February 24 at 06:49 PM

ME

*Cairns Family , I have many great memories of your father . He was very patient and kind with us on the field and off . My sincere condolences to all of you , Sheryl , Carrie and Shelly . Coach Cairnes was truly loved and will be missed . My love and prayers, Rest In Peace and may the perpetual light shine upon you David 🙏 , Mary Engroff*

**Mary Engroff** - February 24 at 07:46 PM



*Goodbye cousin I'm gonna miss your smile and crazy laugh. Sure glad you survived that tractor rollover accident as a kid and blessed us with another six decades on this earth.*

**Don McCutcheon** - February 25 at 07:38 PM

DB

*Want to extend our deepest sympathy to the Cairns family. Dave was one of the best friends that anyone could possibly have. He always greeted you with a big smile and always had something funny to say. We knew Dave at the ball fields and at the railroad. Always enjoyed talking to Dave about our ball teams, his vision for his grapes, our childhood coming from a small community and our families. I learned a lot from Dave when he was my mentor when I first started working in the IT department at the Santa Fe railroad. Dave will be greatly missed by his friends and anyone who knew him. Don and Alice Boden*

**don and alice boden** - February 27 at 12:17 PM

SB

*To everyone in the Cairns Family  
I used to work with Dave at the Railroad. He was such a hard working, fun loving guy! Don't think there was anyone that didn't enjoy working with him. My heart goes out to each of you, but know you all have some very special memories that will live in your hearts forever. He will be missed.*

**Sally Brooke** - February 27 at 05:52 PM

NP

*Diamond Dave ! Was a good man and father. My condolences to the entire family. Many fond memories will stay with me forever.  
Nick Pruitt*

**Nick Pruitt** - March 11 at 09:01 AM

JM

*Linda and I were blessed to have known Dave through the Santa Fe Railway co and on the softball field at Lake Shawnee. Dave was my mentor when I first started in the IT dept at the Santa Fe Railroad. Dave will be missed by so many. Our hearts and prayers are with the Cairns family. Jim and Linda McNeece*

**Jim McNeece** - March 14 at 02:23 AM