



Christopher Tucker

February 4, 1955 - August 14, 2025

Christopher Lee “Chris” Tucker, 70, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Thursday, August 14, 2025.

Chris was born February 4, 1955, in Garnett, Kansas, to Everett and Mary Elizabeth Fraker Tucker. He graduated from Garnett High School in 1973, earned his bachelor’s degree from Emporia State University and continued his education at KU finishing as a registered pharmacist. Chris was the director of the Department of Veteran’s Affairs Barcode Resource Office.

On June 24, 1995, Chris and Joan Domnanish Rettig were united in marriage enjoying just over 30 years together. She survives.

Chris loved all animals and in his youth befriended a baby racoon, naming him Rocky and taking care of him. On a trip to Hawaii he swam with the turtles and a seal. He enjoyed genealogy and coin collecting. He liked backpacking, hiking and camping in the mountains. He was a great cook winning recognition in the Topeka Capitol Journal’s weekly feature “Cook of the Week.” He specialized in Cajun cooking: etouffee, jambalaya, barbecue shrimp and grits and in homage to his great-grandmother, her apple dumplings.

Chris was a good man, a good soul, who didn’t get angry, who was kind, considerate and helpful, no matter what. He was dearly loved and will be

greatly missed.

Other survivors include his stepson, Brett Rettig (Michelle); grandchildren, Braden Ewing, and Blake and Gabby Rettig; brother, John Tucker; a nephew, Joshua Tucker; and niece, Jessica Tucker.

Chris was preceded in death by his stepdaughter, Amy Ewing and his brother, Tom Tucker.

Family will greet friends from 10 until 11 a.m. Saturday, August 23, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where his Memorial Service will begin at 11 a.m. Burial will be private at Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Memorial Service

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Christopher Tucker*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - August 20, 2025 at 04:12 PM

LR

“ *So sorry to hear of Chris passing. I went to high school (he was in the same class as one of my brothers) with him, as well as KU. He was always smiling and was a happy soul...so sweet and kind. Peace, love, and prayers for his entire family.*

Loretta Frank Rowland-Kitley - September 05, 2025 at 05:23 PM

CR

“ *Many prayers for Chris' family. I went to high school with Chris, but knew him long before that. He was in my brother, Craig's class and they played baseball together for lots of years. Chris was always so happy and sweet! A great guy who was fun to be around! May God grant each of you peace and wonderful memories to cling to.*

Carma Wagoner Rockers - September 05, 2025 at 11:39 AM

RW

Very sorry to hear of Chris passing, too soon. We were in the same class in Garnett, Ks. Chris was always smiling and bright and witty. Some good memories of sitting behind him in Home Room @ GHS. While I didn't know him as an adult, it was good to reconnect a bit @ our 40th class reunion. I could tell that he was enjoying a successful life, yet deep down he was still the same person I remembered growing up with. Well done my friend. Rest in peace. (Craig)

raig Wagoner - September 08, 2025 at 11:30 AM



“*Chris taught me all about being a pharmacist in the VA when I started as a pharmacist at the Topeka VA in 1993. Chris was such an innovator and had such a special way with words - of not only understanding them but also speaking them. He made everyone around him better. I was fortunate enough to work with Chris at the beginning of my VA career and after a break, at the end of his VA career.*

Chris didn't only teach me about work. Chris and I went to Saint Louis on a work trip. I figured we would just drive (Saint Louis isn't that far, right?), but Chris insisted that we needed to fly because driving is too exhausting. I had never flown before, and he was so patient and completely showed me the ropes. I've used those lessons MANY times since.

We had so many conversations through the years about our families and different life subjects. His birthday was Feb 4, the same as my middle son, so that was a really nice way for me to remember his birthday!

Chris was cheerful, encouraging, and always thought of others before himself. He was a bright light in this world and will be forever missed.

My deepest sympathies to Joan and all of Chris's family.

Traci Eddy - August 21, 2025 at 09:07 PM

SS

“ I was blessed to work with Chris on the CPR pharmacy team. Chris had a way of making everyone around him smile...whether it be a joke, his contagious laugh, or sharing some of the delicious food he made. Our greatest connection was sharing photos and stories of our dogs - my Charlee and his dog Molly were the same breed, and we both love and adored them! Sending my love to his family and friends. How lucky were we to know a man like Chris? He will be missed.

Shelly Stauffer - August 21, 2025 at 03:41 PM

GL

“ My condolences to Joan and the rest of Chris’s family. In addition to the wonderful things already expressed, I want to add that Chris was a giant in the field of Pharmacy. Among other accomplishments he was the engine behind the development and implementation of the VA’s BarCode Medication Administration program. The increase in safety provided by the program undoubtedly saved many lives. Hospitals throughout the country consulted with Chris to implement their own versions of the system, and it became the standard for not just the VA but for private sector hospitals as well.

Greg Laird - August 21, 2025 at 09:05 AM

AF

“ Aunt Beth & Puckett family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Christopher Tucker.



Aunt Beth & Puckett family - August 19, 2025 at 03:03 PM

ES

“ I've known Chris professionally since I was a baby pharmacist at Topeka VA, and had the great fortune to watch him do great things in VA and patient safety, but I'm most fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Chris in his last several years working for VA. It was there I really got to know Chris. He is one of the most caring and considerate people I know. He offered guidance and mentored many people on any of his many passions at work, including myself. He LOVED the RACI matrix (Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, and Informed) which I found so humorous until I got into leadership and discovered it actually was very useful :) . This is but one of many things I learned from Chris but one of my favorite.

Chris, you are missed by many, and we are lessened by your passing, but we are more because we knew you. All the best to Joan and the family.

Eric Scott - August 19, 2025 at 01:12 PM

BW

“ Chris was my supervisor at the VA. A truly wonderful man who led with kindness and love. He always showed me he was proud of my accomplishments and motivated me with grace when I didn't meet my goals. He also cared about me as a friend, and not just an employee. Always asking about my family and how I was doing. And that true, genuine smile he greeted everyone with was one of a kind. My heart is broken for Chris' family. Sending all of my love and healing to you all as you mourn this kind, genuine soul. May all of the great times you got to share with Chris help you through this difficult time.

Breanna Webb - August 19, 2025 at 11:31 AM

SH

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Chris not just as a coworker back in the early days during the birth of BCMA but as a neighbor and wonderful friend. He brought such joy to everyone’s lives. I will never forget his contagious smile. My condolences to Joan and the family.

Suzette Holston - August 19, 2025 at 12:49 AM

LT

“ I'll always remember Chris' smile and cheerful demeanor. He has been my friend for almost 60 years and I will miss him greatly. RIP my friend.

Les Thomas - August 18, 2025 at 11:32 PM