



Clark Duffy

December 22, 1948 - April 17, 2022

Clark R. Duffy, 73, of Topeka, KS, passed away on April 17, 2022. He was born December 22, 1948, in Abilene, KS, the son of Gaylord and Ruth Duffy. He was raised on the family farm near Chapman and attended Wesley, a one-room schoolhouse, where his mother was his teacher through 5th grade... there were no easy A's.

Clark graduated from Dickinson County Community High School in 1967, where he was crowned Sports King. Clark's undergraduate work at McPherson College was interrupted by the Vietnam War when he and several of his buddies enlisted in the Marine Corps. Due to Clark's proficiency in typing and penchant for following orders, he served stateside with the Atlantic Fleet HQ, writing orders. After returning home, he resumed his studies at Kansas State University, earning a BS in political science. EMAW!

Clark chose to attend Colorado State University to complete an MA in Political Science. He was drawn to CSU because of their emphasis on environmental studies or, as we all suspect, he just wanted to hit the ski slopes.

After submitting 162 job applications, Clark was hired as an analyst by the Division of the Budget for the State of Kansas under Governors Bennett and Carlin. Clark continued his state service in the Kansas Water Office and the KDHE Bureau of Air and Radiation. He worked in the private sector for six

years as Associate Director of the American Petroleum Institute (API).

Clark served eight years on the Topeka City Council representing district 6, including one term as Deputy Mayor. He served as President of the Kansas Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) and the Kansas Association of Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE). Clark was a recipient of the John K. Strickler Award for Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education.

Clark enjoyed his retirement by teaching as an Adjunct Professor in the Political Science Department at Washburn University, serving as a consultant with FEMA on nuclear disaster preparedness, and raising grassfed beef, wheat and soybeans on the family farm.

Clark was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife, Susan, and children, Erin (Lance), Brenna (Evy), and Colin, two grandchildren, Henry and Eleanor, and sister, Jody Davis (Don).

In his free time, Clark could be found tuning into Formula 1 at o'dark-thirty or sitting on the 45-yard line at the Bill Snyder Family Stadium. As a true Irishman, Clark celebrated his St. Patrick's Day wedding anniversary donning a kilt, whiskey in hand, and Van Morrison in the background. Clark enjoyed cards; canasta with the family and pitch with his boyhood friends. Clark loved: milk, crosswords, his red corvette, the north 40 gardens, westerns, three squares ALL with beef, creating lists and plans, coaching his children (they did NOT love this), frequent chats with the "helpful" employees at Microsoft, "Head Start" meetings with the kids, watching public TV with Susan and MSNBC.

Clark's recipe for life: be a lifelong learner, travel, be an ethical leader, have passion for what you do, and do what you know.

True to Clarks spirit, a celebration of his life will be on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2022, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Celtic Fox in Downtown Topeka.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Washburn University Foundation Political Science Department, 1729 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka KS 66614, or the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, 2610 Claflin Road, Manhattan KS 66502, or the High Country News, PO Box 1090, Paonia CO 81428. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

APR **22**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Celtic Fox
118 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66603

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Hi Susan, I know this sounds strange, but for some reason I was thinking of Clark today & found out about his passing 1 year ago to the day. My sincere belated condolences. We had lost track of each other over the years after we left the KWO. I truly enjoyed working with him for over 20 years & he was a true gentleman in every way. I feel like it's some kind “sign” to discover this sad information on this date. Hope you & your kids are all well & my best to all of you.
Steve Hurst

Steve Hurst - April 17, 2023 at 04:08 PM



“ Clark Duffy

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

DH

“ Susan — I am so sorry to learn of Clark's passing. He was truly a great person. I know your memories will sustain you and the kids. May God's peace be with you and comfort you. Donna harrington

Donna Harrington - May 07, 2022 at 01:18 PM

TS

“ Susan and family. It saddens me to think of a world without Clark in it. He was a true mentor and friend. I will always be grateful to him for the opportunities and advice he provided. He helped many people through his time of service and always did so in a willing fashion. My career in public service has been influenced by concepts and philosophy that Clark shared with me in my first days at KDHE. I will always hold his friendship as a foundational asset for my dedication to public service. I pray that you are all well and that your hearts while mourning will know how greatly Clark influenced others in his time. Please accept my deepest sympathies in your time of loss.

Thomas Langer Sr - April 23, 2022 at 07:58 AM

TS

“ Susan and clan: it was an honor and privilege to have Clark as my friend. He shaped a large part of my life and there are many more around the state that say the same thing. His passing is so surreal but celebrating his life in word and deed makes him a part of each of us now. Debi and I are there for you whatever and whenever. God bless you all

Tom Stiles

Tom Stiles - April 22, 2022 at 09:57 PM



“ My dearest condolences over the passing of Clark. He was my teacher at Washburn University for two classes and was a great inspiration to me during my time there. He is someone that I look up to and remember very fondly. As an instructor, he was patient, kind, helpful and very knowledgeable. He will be dearly missed.

- Matthew Self

Matthew Leo - April 22, 2022 at 05:47 PM

MM

“ Dear Susan and family, I'm very sorry to hear about Duffy's passing. His close, life-long friendship with my Dad was very special, and I have many fond memories of their laughter and ranching days on the family farm. What a wonderful, loving legacy Duffy has left with you and your children, as well as the Topeka community. He was a true servant at heart and upstanding man. Hugs and prayers to you all. Melissa Mosher

Melissa Mosher - April 22, 2022 at 05:43 PM

CC

“ So very sorry to hear of Clark's passing. Our sincere condolences to all of his family. Clark and I were childhood best friends but college, distances and life kept us apart for many years , yet I thought of him often. He was a great guy to be around and always made the people he was with feel special. I remember many wonderful times and adventures at his old family farm near Chapman. He will be missed.

Clinton Chase - April 22, 2022 at 04:52 PM

DP

“ Dear Susan and family,
We were so sorry to hear of Clark passing. Our thoughts are with you at this most difficult time.
Sincerely,
David & Julie Pope

David & Julie Pope - April 22, 2022 at 02:27 PM

DK

“ Susan/ Sorry to hear about Clark's passing. Dennis called me which I appreciated. I enjoyed working with him in the DOB. With Clark there were not many dull moments. My condolences to you and your family. Dick Koerth

Dick Koerth - April 21, 2022 at 11:48 AM

RS

“ Susan, I'm so sorry to hear of Clark's death. Pat Morgan called to tell me about it. I will be praying for you and the family.

Ruthy Sherrer - April 21, 2022 at 11:35 AM

JD

“ Dear family, my memories of Clark were through his wonderful sister Jo Elaine (Jody) Duffy Davis. Jody met and married my cousin Don. We met and spent time with Clark, Ruth and Gaylord many years ago. Upon meeting the whole Duffy family, we immediately thought they were wonderful! Our late parents said they were "salt of the earth", good people! Sending heartfelt condolences to you and all who knew and loved Clark. 🙏

Jocelyn Darrow - April 21, 2022 at 08:42 AM

MW

“ So very sorry. First class person and public citizen.

Mark Works - April 21, 2022 at 08:31 AM

JG

“ I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to say goodbye to Clark. He and I spent a few hours getting to know each other shortly before he came to the Kansas Water Office. We talked shop. mostly. Sometimes on the phone, sometimes after hours, and sometimes over a beer or two. We always had plans to get together and stay in touch. I thought that would happen somehow. I saw him at Topeka's farmer's market and talked of getting together. We talked briefly at a K-State football game and on the phone when he passed me on the turnpike. But we never got any further. Too much stuff kept getting in the way. I will miss Clark for I considered him my friend. I'm gonna bet there'll be a next time for sure.

John gottschamer - April 20, 2022 at 10:12 PM

SS

Susan, my sincere sympathies on your loss. Clark will be missed by many; way too young.
Susan

Susan Stover - April 20, 2022 at 10:19 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Clark Duffy.



April 20, 2022 at 09:28 PM

JS

“ Susan and Duffy, I am so sorry to hear about Clark Duffy Death. I know he will be truly miss. You will be in my prayer's.

Jim Schermerhorn

Jim Schermerhorn - April 20, 2022 at 09:23 PM

BM

“ Susan and Duffy: My sincere condolences on Clark's passing. He was a "true" public servant who I got to know well during my service in The Statehouse. He will be truly missed. Bill Muir, Manhattan

Bill Muir - April 20, 2022 at 07:12 PM

CT

“ Good man and community citizen. RIP Clark 🙏🙏🙏

Clark W. Trammell - April 20, 2022 at 07:02 PM

DH

“ Rest in Peace Clark. A great guy!
Dave Holthaus

David Holthaus - April 20, 2022 at 06:03 PM

CS

“ My sincere condolences to the family. I was a classmate of Clark's - he was such a great guy. He will be missed.

Connie Schwab-Stillwagon - April 20, 2022 at 04:38 PM

DW

“ So very sorry about Clark's passing. It doesn't seem that long ago that Susan, Clark, and I were "youngsters" growing up in the Division of the Budget. He had a great life, and he leaves a legacy of being a true public servant, a great friend to many people, and most of all a great husband, father, and family man. Cherish the memories. Jane and I send our thoughts and prayers.

Dennis Williams

Dennis Williams - April 20, 2022 at 03:24 PM

DE

“ Susan, I always loved hearing about the adventures you and Clark had when we worked together. What a life he LIVED! My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. I hope all the wonderful memories will help you through this difficult time. Take care.

Denise, Dennis, Lauren, and Jacob Ensley

Denise Ensley - April 20, 2022 at 02:25 PM

MS

Susan, I am so sorry for your loss. Always had a great time with Clark. The conversations were memorable. My thoughts and prayers for you and your family. Let me know if I can help with anything. Matt Sabatini

Matt Sabatini - April 20, 2022 at 03:31 PM

DB

“ Thoughts and Prayers for the family of Clark Duffy!

*Daryl and Vicki Beemer
C/67 classmates*

Daryl Beemer - April 20, 2022 at 10:15 AM

JN

“ Clark's passing is sad, but on the other hand my friend is in no more pain, and he's looking down smiling over his family and friends. He was mentor to me while we were on the council and we would together over his house and talk about issues locally and nationally. I will miss my good friend. RIP my friend I

John Nave - April 20, 2022 at 10:13 AM

JP

“ I always looked forward to Clark quoting Van Morrison in the Council Chambers. It was a great run my friend! Love and prayers to Susan and the children.

Jeff Preisner

Jeff Preisner - April 20, 2022 at 10:02 AM

DS

“ Susan, sending you and your family peace and strength as you navigate the world without Clark at your side.

Donna Swaffar - April 20, 2022 at 09:44 AM

BB

“ Susan: Hey Friend!! What a beautiful obituary that sounds just like Clark!! Mark and I are keeping you and the kids in our thoughts and prayer for no one is ever ready today goodbye to someone so amazing. We hope the time you spent together and the memories created will give you peace. See you all on Friday to celebrate Clark.

Becky Burghart - April 20, 2022 at 08:31 AM

SG

Dear Susan, Clark and you were two my most favorite people on this earth!! I am so sorry! We will see you Friday!

Sophie George - April 20, 2022 at 03:03 PM

BS

“ *Susan and family,
So very shocked and saddened to hear of Clark’s passing. I have fond memories of having our babies on the same day, being in the hospital together and having our husbands enjoying breakfast while we enjoyed labor!
Jim and Bobbi Showalter*

Bobbi Showalter - April 19, 2022 at 07:59 PM

LY

“ *Susan, my heart goes out to you and your kids and all of your family!! Love and hugs to you my friend. And prayers! -Lynn and John Robinson*

Lynn - April 19, 2022 at 07:41 PM

JA

“ *Susan, We are so saddened and sorry to read of Clark's passing. Hugs and prayers to you and your family. Janet and Rocky Arnold*

J Arnold - April 19, 2022 at 06:55 PM

GS

“ *Susan,
So sorry for your loss and praying for you and your family 🙏*

Greta Stephens - April 19, 2022 at 06:03 PM

KD

“ Susan,
My most heartfelt condolences. What a life well-lived! God bless you
and yours.

Kim Davis - April 19, 2022 at 05:46 PM

SG

“ Susan and kids I want to send my love and prayers to you guys. Not
only were we neighbors for years you guys truly took me and Alex in
as ur own and we loved and appreciated every min of it. From trips
to the farm or just running around the neighborhood together. Clark
Duffy was a great man and will be loved and missed I am here for
y'all if you need anything at all

samantha ginter - April 19, 2022 at 05:01 PM