



Daniel O. Cain

June 10, 1926 - March 5, 2022

Daniel O'Connell Cain, 95, passed away in Topeka on March 5, 2022, with beloved family at his side.

Dan was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, June 10, 1926, the eldest son of Daniel O., Sr., and Elisabeth Quinn Cain. After briefly living in Elwood, Kansas, the family moved to Hannibal, Missouri, before settling in Salina. Dan graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Salina in 1944 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. A near-fatal bout of rheumatic fever prevented his deployment to the Pacific theater before the war's end.

Dan attended Kansas State University on the GI Bill and earned a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics in 1950. He took a job out of college teaching soil conservation practices to farmers and returning veterans in Sherman County. Later, he was hired by the State Department of Agriculture in Topeka. He subsequently shifted to the Kansas Corporation Commission, where he served for many years as a securities examiner.

In the late 1970s, Dan left state employment and never looked back to focus full-time on his expanding agricultural concerns. His family had farmed in Kansas since the 1860s and Dan proved a successful heir to this legacy. His holdings eventually included prime acreage in Shawnee, Douglas, Osage and Jefferson counties. Dan was a devoted steward of the land and committed to limiting the use of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides. In 2008, he was recognized by Douglas County as Soil Conservationist of the Year.

Dan served on the Kansas Corn Commission and was a member of the National Corn Growers' research and marketing committees. He traveled to Japan with the corn commission in 1994 to commemorate the rapid expansion of Kansas corn exports to that country. After retiring, Dan established an endowment at his alma mater to support alternative uses for Kansas agricultural products.

Dan was an astute and successful stock market investor but was happiest working the

land, especially if joined by his family. Whether laboring alongside his dad and younger brothers, Gene and Jim, to bring in the harvest in his bachelor years, overseeing his son, Dan III, and sons-in-law in clearing brush and rock to put additional acreage into production, or enlisting his daughters and grandchildren to chop invasive Russian thistles, Dan understood that success as an independent farmer required contributions from all.

He was physically fit and would often labor past sundown, sometimes alone. Family members occasionally bristled at being pressed into service on the hottest days of summer, but they all learned from his self-reliance and iron work ethic.

Dan was a true son of Kansas. He knew much about the state's history and could name the county seat of each of her 105 counties, having visited many of them working for the Department of Agriculture. He inherited a love of music from his mother and played trombone in high school and college. He continued to perform with several Topeka big bands in later years, including the Fairlawn Swing Band.

Like his father before him, Dan took great pride in his Irish heritage. He was involved for many years in the planning of Topeka's annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations, activities which his father had helped pioneer after World War II with an annual Mass, breakfast and dance. The present-day parade and accompanying events were high holidays for the Cain family. Dan was a lifelong Democrat and sharply critical of the divisive, polarized nature that marks American politics today.

Dan and his wife, Theresa, raised six spirited and accomplished children. He was extremely generous with his brood. But his greatest gifts were the values of family, honesty, fairness and sacrifice he instilled in each.

To Dad, Dan, Papa D. and Mr. Cain: You will be forever in our hearts and live each day in our memories. God speed and rest easy.

Dan married Theresa Ann Murry on September 29, 1956, at Holy Name Church in Topeka. In addition to his wife, he is survived by their children Patricia Rodewald (Lance), Beijing, China; Ann Cain (Bonar Menninger), Merriam, KS; Dan Cain III (Michelle), Kansas City, MO; Mary Eileen Cain, Lawrence, KS; Clare Stafford (George), Lawrence, KS; and Bridget Cain, Portland, OR; and grandchildren Theresa Rodewald (Matt Sherman), Thomas Rodewald, Grace Menninger, Clare Cain, Michael Cain, Ellen McGivern, Maura McGivern (Matt Kirby), Joseph McGivern, Helena Stafford, Owen Stafford and Abigail Bushman; brother James Cain, Reno, NV; as well as several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Dan was preceded in death by his brother Gene.

The family will greet friends at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church on Friday, March 11, 6:30-8 pm, with a rosary and remembrances to follow. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated the following morning at 11 am at Most Pure Heart, 3601 SW 17th St., Topeka, Kansas 66604. The Mass will be live streamed on Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home Facebook page. Masking is requested by the family; mourners are encouraged to wear green if they so desire. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cain Land and Grain Value-Added Scholarship via the Kansas State University Foundation using Fund Number M47394, or by mail to KSU Foundation, 1800 Kimball Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502. Alternatively, online contributions to Catholic Relief Services to help Ukrainian families are encouraged. Donations to the above organizations also can be made by mail in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Do not be sad. I’ve lived a wonderful life.”

— Dan O. Cain

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 11. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Rosary

MAR 11. 8:00 PM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Remembrances

MAR 11. 8:15 PM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Daniel O. Cain*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - March 12, 2022 at 11:40 AM

CZ

Eternal rest grant unto Dan, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Candace Moran Zimmerman - March 22, 2022 at 05:37 PM



“ *Daniel O. Cain*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

PV

“ *Thankful to know you all, and prosperity in all memories, like a grand harvest week.*

Patricia Vasquez - March 13, 2022 at 09:12 PM

DB

“ *To the Cain Family:*

My dad and mom farmed the ground Dan bought from my grandpa's estate. Dan would occasionally stop by for a visit. Dan and Dad always had a lot of stories to share about how different ones were farming etc. Dan and Theresa sometimes came to where I was playing for a dance like the Moose and had a good time. We always got a kick out of him when we would get to talking politics. We knew Dan's dad and his two brothers Gene and Jim. So we go back with a long friendship. My thoughts and prayers are with the whole family at this difficult time.

*Darleen Bernhardt
Tecumseh, KS*

Darleen Bernhardt - March 11, 2022 at 10:04 AM

DW

“ Dan was a great guy and had lots of good stories...I always enjoyed catching up with him at the “Wednesday Night Group” when I visited Topeka.

My deepest sympathy to Teresa and his family. May he Rest In Peace.

Debbie White - March 09, 2022 at 08:02 PM

JD

“ To the fortunate children of Dan Cain,
You have lost a wonderful father.
We have lost a trusted friend.
Today we dwell on Plass avenue and the long term and deep friendships that developed there.
I regret I will not share in the funeral mass. I will say prayers and Thanksgiving for Dan's remarkable life.
Give your mom a hug for me. Save one for each of you.

joyce DeCJoursey - March 09, 2022 at 11:09 AM

JH

“ Dan was a customer and friend of Georgia Neese- Gray. Her family started Capital City Bank in Topeka. Dan told me the story (many times) in my office at Capital City Bank, that a long time ago he asked Georgia to borrow a few hundred dollars from the bank for crop costs. He said that Mrs. Neese- Gray stressed that she wanted to make sure that he would be able to pay it back and pay it back on time.
Dan said that he had a good crop that year and he went to Georgia to pay the loan off early and Georgia was upset with him because she was counting on the interest calculated for the whole term.
Dan continued to do business with her and the bank for a long time.
May God's light continue to shine upon him.
My prayers go out to the whole family.
Joe Hoytal

Joe Hoytal - March 09, 2022 at 10:45 AM

YT

“ Your CM Family at TMC purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Daniel O. Cain.



Your CM Family at TMC - March 08, 2022 at 07:22 PM