



Darrel Brake

January 26, 1950 - April 16, 2024

Darrel Lee Brake, 74, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Darrel was born January 26, 1950, in Hamburg, Iowa, the son of Deward and Betty Cavner Brake. He graduated from Atlantic High School and earned an associate degree from Marshalltown Community College. He served our country in the US Air Force where he received his education to become a computer programmer.

In his early years, sports played an important part in Darrel's life. He continued that passion through coaching his sons' sports and then became his grandchildren's biggest "sports advisor" and fan. In addition, he cheered on KU basketball, KC Chiefs, the Royals, and golf became his full-time retirement hobby.

Darrel retired in 2009 after 35 years with Blue Cross Blue Shield, as Director of Information Systems Application Development.

Darrel and Leola (Tenbrink) LaBranch were married in Hawaii, in February 2000. They enjoyed traveling, cruises, and attending many KU basketball games, including following the Jayhawks to several Final Fours. They especially enjoyed attending the 2008 Final Four in San Antonio, TX, when the Jayhawks won the Championship!

Darrel loved to have fun and touched many lives through his desire to connect with others. He was known for telling playful jokes, speaking like Donald Duck, teasing grandkids, trying to make others smile, or playing pranks. A special memory the grandkids have is of him performing magic tricks to delight them. He was a calm and not easily rattled person. He liked to coach, listen to, mentor and care for others. He was very proud of his sons and his grandchildren were very special to him. He cared deeply and was dearly loved. He will be missed.

Grateful to have shared Darrel's life are his sons, Darren Lee Brake, Chad Ryan Brake (Shannon), T.J. Brake (Maurene); stepdaughters, Amy LaBranch and Becky LaBranch; grandchildren, Jade, Macey, Cory, Emily, Kendall, Reagan, Dyllan, and Jaelynn; step-granddaughter Izzy Porter; great-grandchildren, Hadley, Brett, Charlie, Ava Leigh and Xavier, niece Dawn Wake and great-niece and great-nephew; and his many golfing buddies.

Darrel was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Donnie Brake.

Cremation has taken place. Darrel's Celebration of Life will be 11 a.m., Saturday, April 27, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Boys and Girls Clubs of Topeka, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shawnee County, or Kansas Children's Service League and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent on-line to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 27. 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 Darrel Brake*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - April 24, 2024 at 03:24 PM

DP

Godspeed, ol' friend!

Don Prall - April 26, 2024 at 10:44 PM

JP

“ *Dear Leola - We are so sorry for your loss! And so sorry we didn't know in time to come to his service. Thoughts and prayers are with you! Love, the Pastas*

Julie Pasta - April 29, 2024 at 11:31 AM

SH

“ *Darrel was a classmate from AHS in Atlantic Iowa. . Darrel had many friends and adventures there. He was a good man to all. He will be missed. Gone too soon! Prayers for all!*

Sue (Johnson) Hockensmith - April 28, 2024 at 09:20 AM

LP

“ Darrel and I shared many a chuckle over our clunky rides in high school and I was sending him articles about vintage Ford Falcons in recent years. Wish I could get one more ride with him. Darrel was among the best athletes and certainly among the best men in the AHS class of '68.

Lloyd Patterson - April 26, 2024 at 11:30 PM

DB

“ Doug & Teresa, Vince, Lindsey, Austin and Charlie Byers purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Darrel Brake.



Doug & Teresa, Vince, Lindsey, Austin and Charlie Byers -
April 26, 2024 at 06:35 PM

RB

“ Darrel you left us way to soon. Enjoyed working with you for over 30 years and it breaks my heart that you have left us for a better place. Sending prayers for you and your family.

RICK L BENDER - April 25, 2024 at 05:56 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darrel Brake.



April 25, 2024 at 04:40 PM

BM

“ Thinking of you Chad and the entire Brake family,

Brent McGhee - April 23, 2024 at 03:37 PM

BS

“ Leola, Darrel was a great boss. I learned a lot from him and enjoyed doing it. So sorry for your loss. Barbara Salyer

barbara salyer - April 22, 2024 at 06:23 PM

CC

“ Ornerly. This will forever be my memory of Darrel. I shall miss seeing him at the golf course. My sincere sympathy.

Carrie Coffman-Jones - April 21, 2024 at 04:51 PM

JT

“ Leola and Family, I am sorry for your loss of your Precious Human Darrel. I only knew him by delivering mail to him, but he always smiled and never complained about the late delivery. Such a great gentleman! 🙏📦📦❤️ Jan Twemlow

Jan Twemlow - April 21, 2024 at 11:39 AM

J(

“ Janice (. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darrel Brake.

Janice (. - April 21, 2024 at 11:33 AM

CK

“ So sorry for your loss

carolyn kuckelman - April 21, 2024 at 10:09 AM

RS

“ Darrel and I retired about the same time and that’s when I first met him through golf. We quickly became close friends. I played golf with a variety of guys, but played more rounds with Darrel than anyone else. We had lots of fun times and constantly were ribbing each other over bad shots, etc. Golf usually ended with nonsense dialog along with a couple cold ones. Our good times weren’t limited to golf but that was the main activity. Whatever we did together was always accompanied by lots of laughter. I will truly miss him. RIP

Ray Schmidt - April 20, 2024 at 05:46 PM

FH

“ Fondlest memory of Darrel is his fluorescent golf shirts and what amounted to a competition with another golfer for the brightest color shirt. He was fun on the course.

Fred Heinz - April 19, 2024 at 11:13 PM

DM

“ Dennis Mize purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Darrel Brake.



Dennis Mize - April 19, 2024 at 10:21 PM

DM

“ Dennis Mize planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darrel Brake.

Dennis Mize - April 19, 2024 at 10:21 PM



“ *Darrell wss a nice man i didn't know Darrel im sending you my symphaty to the brake family terry I glenn* ”

Terry I glenn - April 19, 2024 at 10:10 PM