



Dean Jay McWilliams

July 1, 1965 - November 11, 2016

Dean Jay McWilliams, 51, Topeka, lost his battle with cancer Friday, November 11, 2016, at his home, comforted with love as he was surrounded by family.

Dean was born July 1, 1965, in Cheyenne WY, the son of George and Sonja Avers McWilliams. Dean moved at a young age with his family to Cleveland OH, and his love for the Browns and the Indians took root and remained loyal despite the family's move to Topeka KS. Dean graduated from Seaman High School in 1983. He graduated from Washburn University with a Criminal Justice degree.

Dean was an officer for the Topeka Police Department, retiring as a Lieutenant after 29 years of public service. His proudest years in law enforcement was becoming a pilot and flying for the TPD Helicopter Unit. Dean balanced his career as a law enforcement officer and his pursuit of becoming a lawyer, graduating from Washburn University Law School in 2002. Dean not only maintained a private practice, but enjoyed being a prosecutor for Jackson County. He shared his talent and inspired others by teaching criminal justice as an adjunct professor at Washburn University.

Dean met his wife, Dawn in 2000, at the Topeka Police Department. They married and united a family including Connor & Zach Cummings on December 29, 2007. The gifts of twin boys Nicholas and Nathaniel completed their family. Dean was a dedicated, loving, caring, thoughtful man with a wonderful sense of humor. His greatest joy was watching the boys develop into incredible young men, as he helped coach sports teams, cheer from the sidelines, help with history homework, actively participate in school functions and assuring that the annual family vacation to OBX was never missed. Dean was proud to be the uncle of Ellie and Camden, making them laugh with practical jokes and being present as they grew into amazing young adults.

Grateful to have shared in his life are his wife, Dawn, of the home; sons, Connor, Zach, Nicholas and Nathaniel; father, George McWilliams, Topeka; sister, Cathy Martin (Chuck), McCordsville IN; nephew, Camden Martin; niece, Ellie Martin; uncle, Lyle Avers (Kandi),

Topeka; Aunt, Noreen Fisher (Mark), Galveston IN; father-in-law, Steve Armstrong, McCormick SC, sister-in-law, Kristin Armstrong, Salem MA; brothers-in-law, Tim Armstrong, Topeka and Matt Armstrong, Simpsonville SC.

Dean was preceded in death by his mother, Sonja McWilliams, in 2013; and his aunt and uncle, Luella and James Bagby.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 17th at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Burial will be private at Rochester Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The McWilliams' Children Education Fund, to benefit Nicholas and Nathaniel, at any Azura Credit Union.

Dean's family acknowledges and thanks the dedicated Bone Marrow Transplant Team at the University of Kansas Medical Center and the compassionate and comforting team from

Midland Care Hospice that became part of their family during this unexpected journey.

Cemetery Details

Rochester Cemetery

1200 NW Menninger Rd
Topeka, KS 66618

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Dean Jay McWilliams*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

SS

“ *Dawn, my heart goes out to you and the boys. I am so sorry Dean's life here was so short, but what blessings he gave to you in memories and in his love for all of your sons.*

Cancer is cruel, I will keep you in my prayers. May you feel his presence everyday.

Suzy Segelquist - November 17, 2016 at 07:16 PM

LI

“ *To Dawn, Nathaniel and Nicholas, we are so sorry for the loss of your husband / father. When we found out last year that Dean was battling with cancer we prayed for his recovery. Our children knew Nicholas and Nathaniel from CTK and my husband took over as Cub Scouts Den Leader from Dean last year. We are continuing to pray for you and the boys, that God will fill you with His strength, hope and love. We are also praying for the happy repose of Dean's soul. We may have never met but we are united with you through the mystical body of Christ. So many prayers and hugs to you.*

Lisa & John Krische.

Lisa - November 17, 2016 at 10:43 AM

TP

“ *Dawn, I am so sorry for your loss. It was always a pleasure to work beside him. He is a good man and a good friend. God bless you and your family.*

Teresa Peters

teresa peters - November 16, 2016 at 05:29 PM

BS

“ *BGCA Southwest purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dean Jay McWilliams.*



BGCA Southwest - November 16, 2016 at 03:24 PM



“ Dawn and boys,

Words cannot express the sorrow felt at such a tremendous loss. My prayer is that the memories of a full life lived as a family and the deep love that bound you together will sustain you for the length of your lives. May the Lord wrap his loving arms around each of you and strengthen you today and always.

Robin Schmidt

Robin Schmidt - November 16, 2016 at 03:14 PM

JH

“ Dean had such a big heart! He was always there to listen anytime anyone had a problem. A supervisor who would always have your back and always looked out for the officers.

Dawn, he may not be there with you in person, but his love will always stay beside you, around you, to protect you through. May God ease the pain and support you in the days to come. Much love, peace, prayers and comfort to you and family!



Julie Hoffman - November 16, 2016 at 01:18 PM

RS

“ Dean's Family,

Prayers for all during this time of sorrow. Dean was one of my Brothers at TPD and will be missed. I am Blessed to have known Dean. Rest in Peace Brother.



Rebecca Schiefelbein - November 16, 2016 at 11:00 AM

CK

“ Dawn and Family,

We are deeply sorry for your loss. May your heart and soul find peace and comfort during this difficult time. We want to express our sympathy and let you know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all. ~ Russ, Cacy, Izahbella & Austin Klumpp

Cacy Klumpp - November 16, 2016 at 10:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dean Jay McWilliams.*



November 16, 2016 at 09:49 AM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Dean Jay McWilliams.*



November 16, 2016 at 07:46 AM

SC

“ *Dawn & family,
We are so sorry for your loss. We will always have such fond memories of Dean and your family during our many seasons of baseball at the lake. We experienced his great generosity & humor on any given day. We will continue to pray for your family in the days to come.*

*Billy & Sue Casey,
Gage & Lane*

Sue Casey - November 16, 2016 at 06:46 AM



Annie Pinto

*We are so very sorry for your tremendous loss. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.
Annie and Addison Pinto*

Annie Pinto - November 16, 2016 at 11:01 AM

SH

“ *Dawn - Our prayers go out to you and your sons for your loss. May your memories provide you comfort.*

*Freddy, Shawn, Lauren and Freddy IV
Maisberger*

Shawn - November 15, 2016 at 10:25 PM

MW

“ Dawn, so sorry for your loss. I just learned about this at the city council meeting. I'll be sending a memorial contribution.

Max Wilson

Max Wilson - November 15, 2016 at 09:30 PM

VD

“ Dawn and family, it was a shock to hear of Deans passing. Just know he is in a better place and will continue to watch over you and your boys. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Aundray , Vicki & Isaiha Durr



Vicki Durr - November 15, 2016 at 09:11 PM

VD

“ Dawn and family, it was a shock to hear of Deans passing. Just know he is in a better place and will continue to watch over you and your boys. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Aundray , Vicki & Isaiha Durr

Vicki Durr - November 15, 2016 at 09:09 PM

MT

“ Dawn and family, please accept my sympathy for your loss and know that I am thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.



Mitzie Tyree - November 15, 2016 at 07:13 PM



“ Dawn and sons, we are so very saddened with the loss of Dean. Even though I did not personally know him, I knew him to be well respected as a law enforcement officer and an incredible person. Our prayers are with you at the time. May you find peace and comfort knowing Dean touched so many. Frank Henderson, Jr.

Frank Henderson - November 15, 2016 at 06:01 PM

RG

“ *Fair winds, following seas.*



Rich Grassi - November 15, 2016 at 03:22 PM

SS

“ *Our love and deepest sympathies are with you and the boys Dawn. Dean was one of the best! We hope you find comfort in the countless wonderful memories your family has together.*

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal - Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

Shaun and Kim Sixkiller - November 15, 2016 at 02:44 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Dean Jay McWilliams.*



November 15, 2016 at 12:38 PM



Margaret Fox

“ *My deepest sympathies Dawn, I was lucky enough to join the police department with Dean and to call him a friend.*

Margaret Fox - November 15, 2016 at 11:41 AM

BE

“ *My partner and my friend. Dean you will be missed. My deepest sympathy to his wonderful family.*
Byron Endsley
Topeka

Byron Endsley - November 15, 2016 at 10:46 AM



“ So sorry for your loss, Dawn. My heart goes out to you and your family. May Our Lord hold you in His loving arms.

Faye Schoenfeld

Faye Schoenfeld - November 15, 2016 at 10:38 AM

SR

“ Absolutely loved having Dean in our dug out. He was definitely the heart of the Lions. The Remfry"s

Scott Remfry - November 15, 2016 at 09:55 AM

JG

“ Dawn, Please be comforted knowing that your BGCA family is thinking of you in your time of loss. Much love goes out to you and your loved ones.

Joyce Glasscock

Joyce Glasscock - November 15, 2016 at 08:27 AM

RS

“ Dawn, Please accept my sympathy for your loss and know that I am thinking of you and your family. I wish for you the hope. strength and love you need at this time.

Renae Steuart

Renae Steuart - November 15, 2016 at 08:20 AM

WW

“ Sorry for your loss. Dean was an honorable man, father, and police officer. Spent many hours working with him on TPD issues. May God bless you.

Walt Wywadis Lt. Col. TPD Retired

Walter Wywadis - November 15, 2016 at 07:24 AM

SM

“ He was such a gentleman. I enjoyed working with him over the years. So sorry for your loss.

Sharon parks mandel - November 15, 2016 at 06:56 AM

JP

“ *My heart aches for Dawn and all of his loved ones. He was such a wonderful human being, whom I greatly admired and was blessed to have as a supervisor during my time at TPD. May he rest in peace knowing that his family is surrounded by love and support from a grateful community.*

Jessie Polk - November 15, 2016 at 06:24 AM

PM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Very proud to have worked with Dean for several years on the TPD, I am honored that I was a small piece of Dean's life, he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*
Phil Martin. Sgt, TPD, Ret

Phillip Martin - November 15, 2016 at 04:11 AM

DD

“ *Dear George, Dawn and boys...my heart aches for all of you, so much loss in such a short time. Just know how much you are all loved, how much Dean was appreciated, and everyone you know wants to be there to comfort you through these difficult times.*
Dawn Downey-Schroder



Dawn Downey - November 14, 2016 at 07:35 PM

DB

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Dean. I have many fond memories of Dean from my childhood as we were neighbors and friends with the McWilliams family. Prayers for peace during this difficult time. Our thoughts are with you all.*
Love Deborah, Michele, Dave and Carol Buckreis.

Deborah Buckreis - November 14, 2016 at 07:26 PM

MM

“ *To Dawn and The boys, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. Know that you are in all of our prayers.*
The EEC staff.

Melissa Mosher - November 14, 2016 at 03:52 PM

DB

Dawn and Family, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your beloved husband/son/brother/uncle Dean. Cherish all those amazing memories and they will assist you during the difficult days. Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family. Rest in Peace Dean!

Debbie Baumgartner - November 14, 2016 at 07:47 PM

DC

“ To the McWilliams family,

I am so sorry for your loss. I went to high school with Dean and had lost track of him, only to find out after he got his law degree and called my office for something, that y'all lived right around the corner. I really enjoyed Dean in high school, but we had some good laughs on the phone after he became a practicing attorney. I send prayers to y'all and know he will be watching over all of you.

Dana Colombo

Dana Colombo - November 14, 2016 at 03:00 PM

SK

“ I am so sorry. Dean was fun and kind. I will miss him. Prayers to his family.

Stacey Kramer - November 14, 2016 at 11:08 AM

MS

“ Dawn and family,

I am so sorry for your loss. Dean was a special person and will be greatly missed. Keeping you in prayer.

Mary Shaw

Mary Shaw - November 14, 2016 at 10:28 AM

HS

“ Words can't mend your heartache, but those who care and share your loss wish you comfort and strength.

Heather Stults-Lindsay - November 14, 2016 at 09:58 AM

AS

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Dean. I will be praying for all of you! Angela(Lemon) Smith

Angela Smith - November 14, 2016 at 06:51 AM

KG

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Dawn, the boys, Cathy, George and the rest of the family. He will be missed dearly . RIP Dean you will always have a special place in our hearts. Kathy, Megan and Jason Gonzales.

Kathy Gonzales - November 14, 2016 at 06:15 AM