



## F.S. "Jack" Alexander

December 7, 1930 - June 24, 2024

Francis Stewart "Jack" Alexander, 93, Topeka, Kansas, former City of Topeka Water Commissioner, celebrated Topeka High School alumni, appointed by two Kansas governors to state service, and unparalleled raconteur, passed away peacefully Monday, June 24, 2024.

Jack was born December 7, 1930, in Iola, Kansas to James Floyd and Agnes Marie Stewart Alexander. When he was a youngster, his mother passed away and his father married Mary Elizabeth "Angel" Saunders who became his second mother in every sense of the word.

When the family moved to Topeka, Jack attended Topeka public schools. At Topeka High School, he excelled in basketball and served as the team captain his senior year on the school's last segregated team, the Ramblers, and graduated in 1949.

Jack worked at Goodyear until taking a leave of absence to serve our country in the US Navy for four years during the Korean War. On March 5, 1952, Jack and his beloved Matilda "Tillie" Simon were united in marriage, enjoying more than 71 years together prior to her death, not quite a year ago, on September 14, 2023.

Jack was always involved in sports. Coaching his children and their

classmates and friends, Jack was the father figure many did not have. He and Tillie welcomed them all into their home and shared their family. Gage Bowl was the site for first Black bowling league in Topeka, which Jack organized. He was the catcher for Ed Marling Hornets fast-pitch softball and was recently inducted into the Topeka High School Sports Hall of Fame.

On his return from the Navy, Jack returned to Goodyear where he became active in Local 307-Rubber Workers Union. Union activities ultimately led to his candidacy and election to the office of Water Commissioner in 1973, the first African American to serve on the city commission where he also served as commission president for 10 years. Over the next 34 years, Jack served our community in many areas, boards, counsels and organizations. Some of these included appointments to the Kansas Corporation Commission and as Kansas State Fire Marshal. Jack dedicated his life to sharing his vision in making our world a better place.

Jack's cup was always three-fourths full. He was a simple but real man, always kind and generous, consisting of so many layers. By design Jack was a walking history book not only being a part of so much history but sharing his knowledge and wisdom with any and all.

Grateful to have shared Jack's life are his children, Jack Alexander, Jr. (Jenny), Stephanie Alexander and Terrell Alexander (Lisa); grandchildren, Shannon, Uler III, Alexandria Simone, Tishawna, Michaella and Marissa; great-grandchildren, Walter "Trey", Tasia, Uler IV, U'Zyah, U'Niese, Udonis, Usiris, U'Launi, Kelsie, Jason, Bryanna, Akkina, Cionna and Kanyon; seven great-great-grandchildren; his brother, Samuel L. Alexander; and sister, Sadie Katherine Ross-Heflin; and a multitude of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jack was also preceded by their daughter, Patricia Alexander, granddaughters, Lori Ann Alexander and Kori Lea Alexander, his brother,

James Floyd Alexander, Jr., and his sister, Doris Marie Taylor Grubbs.

Jack's family will greet friends from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, July 7, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday, July 8, at Mater Dei Holy Name Catholic Church, 1114 SW 10th St, Topeka KS 66604.

Entombment will follow in the mausoleum at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mater Dei Parish sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 7. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church  
1114 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of F.S. "Jack" Alexander



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - July 03, 2024 at 06:13 PM



“ Jack was a wonderful person, as was his wife Tillie,. My dad and Jack used to kick back a couple of Sunday's each month, and talk, We'd hang out and play around the house, lots of wooded area to explore. Good childhood memories.

Vernon Mcfalls - July 12, 2024 at 01:55 AM

DV

“ He was a very nice man the short time I knew him. I am glad to have known a great man and husband to Aunt Tillie.

Donna Vega - July 11, 2024 at 04:30 PM

MP

“ It was my privilege to meet Jack and become one of his many friends. As a police officer and he as City Water Commissioner we had many occasions to visit and talk about all things Topeka. His understanding of how all the parts of our community fit together to make us a great community was inspiring. Always willing to offer sage advice and a good joke. A truly respected pillar of our community. He will be missed by many. Prayers for him and his family.

*Mayor Michael Padilla*

---

**Michael A Padilla** - July 08, 2024 at 10:08 AM

DG

“ Wishing you peace and healing in the days ahead.

*Sending you warm hugs and our deepest condolences,*

*Darrel and Resa Gross  
Topeka, KS*



---

**Darrel and Resa Gross** - July 07, 2024 at 02:06 PM

DA

“ On behalf of Topeka Public Schools, our deepest condolences are extended on the passing of a Topeka High Trojan and a man who made history transforming public schools, Jack Alexander. His life of service, advocacy for civil rights, and dedication to the people of Topeka changed the city and unified a school district. We had the privilege of interviewing him multiple times in the last couple of years and listening to his story of triumph in the face of adversity, what an incredible man whose legacy lives on! Mr. Alexander opened the door for me and for many other leaders, students, teachers and black athletes and educators to walk through. His interview remains on our television station teaching others about his story. His memory and strong temperament was remarkable as he gave advice and made himself available to teach others from his experience.

*Our video broadcast with the interview of Mr. Alexander as the first segment of the show can be viewed in the link below.*

<https://youtu.be/4pUQyZ6jXqM?si=HwNReohO7jJ88Tpd>

*It is an honor to have known him and to witness how God used him to change generations. He was a good and faithful servant. May God comfort your family with positive memories.*

*Dr. Tiffany Anderson  
Superintendent  
Topeka Public School District*



---

**Dr. Tiffany Anderson** - July 06, 2024 at 11:02 AM

JD

“ A sad day when I heard of Tillie as well as Jack passing. Both of them was so helpful when my sister in law passed away. Darlene Dean. Jack kept me laughing thru the tears. Super nice people!



---

**jAN DICK** - July 03, 2024 at 03:25 PM

HS

“ Fair winds and following seas sailor. "Boatswain... Standby to pipe the side... Shipmate's going Ashore..." Thank you Jack for your service to this nation. U.S. Navy, Korean War.



---

**Harry Simpson** - July 03, 2024 at 02:09 PM

MD

“ To the Alexander family,  
I was always delighted to know that my parents, Leonard and Tillie Esser knew your folks, Jack and Tillie, because of the fact that I went to school with young Jack Alexander and our parents knew each other. A simple fact of my youth.  
I pray for the repose of his soul and for the comfort that God will give all of the Alexander Family during this time of sorrow.  
May God Bless you all!!  
Sincerely, Mary Esser Demars

---

**Mary Demars** - June 30, 2024 at 08:08 PM

MH

“ Terrell, keeping you and all the family in my prayers. I loved talking to your dad when I worked for the City. He always had a smile & kind words to share. He will be missed by many. Mary Kay (Grace) Hendrickson

---

**Mary Kay Hendrickson** - June 30, 2024 at 06:25 AM

PD

“ What a great, kind, generous, supportive gentleman. I can't remember the first time I met Jack, but every time we saw each other since that time, he never failed to come over and visit when we were out and about. He was so warm and caring. RIP my friend.

---

**patty dick** - June 29, 2024 at 07:49 AM

RC

“ Stephanie, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your father was a great and honorable man. I worked for Terry Watson, a lawyer who helped with his campaign for commissioner. I hope God sends his angels to surround your family during this difficult time.

---

**randy and mary Anderson clinton** - June 29, 2024 at 01:31 AM

TN

“ Jack was a special guy for sure. I worked for KDHE in Bldg 740 at Forbes in the late 80s. I would pass him in the halls. He always had a warm smile on his face. Just a happy guy. He will be missed in our Topeka community.

---

**Tara Nicholas** - June 28, 2024 at 11:17 AM

RM

“ To the Alexander family, although I didn't know Jack well, he was always a friendly and positive person to be around. When I worked in City Hall he once told me that my office had been his office when he was Water Commissioner, which I considered to be an honor for me. Thank you, Jack, for being a great example for us all in making Topeka a better place. Blessings.

---

**Ruth Maus** - June 28, 2024 at 08:57 AM

VH

“ To Jack's Family - I came to know Jack over the last few years. I lived just a block away from him and he would come to our NIA meeting almost every month. He was still coming as of May of this year, and would always give us his opinion on things we discussed. He knew so much about our city and city government, so his opinions were always highly valued. It sounds like he led a very full & fruitful life, and will be dearly missed by so many people in his family and in our community. Rest in peace, Jack! And say "hello" to Tillie for us.

---

**Valinda Hailey** - June 28, 2024 at 08:54 AM

CW

“ Steff, Jack, and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Your father was a great influence on many lives and such a kind and generous man. The world was a kinder, more generous place due to his presence and influence.

*Holding you all close to my heart and sending prayers and deepest sympathy.*

Love,  
Cathy Novak Wood

---

**Cathy Novak Wood** - June 28, 2024 at 08:46 AM

TG

“ Jack alexander was a wonderful person i knew Jack alexander the last time i saw Jack alexander was at the historical society at ths in December im sending my symphaty to to the family of Jack alexander family may Jack rest in peace 🙏 □ terry I glenn

---

**Terry I glenn** - June 28, 2024 at 07:27 AM

JG

“ Jack and I were at an NIA meeting. He commented we needed snacks. I said I'd bring some cookies. He volunteered to bring the milk. Next meeting we had milk and cookies. Always joy to talk with him. May all the memories help his family.

---

**Judy R Gatewood** - June 28, 2024 at 06:46 AM

LK

“ To the Alexander Family, I am saddened to hear about the passing of your Father. It was so good to see him last year and talk to him. He was such a kind man. On behalf of the Kayhill Family I send my deepest condolences, Much Love and Prayers

---

**Lori Gayle Kayhill** - June 27, 2024 at 08:40 PM

JL

“ To Jack's family I wish you happy memories he was a joy to spend time with - in the event when going through Jack's things you find a baseball card for a, very successful, New York Yankee pitcher named Bob Turley. I want you to share that I gave that card to him during one of my visits to his house. He was really proud of having hit a double off of Turley during a US Army vs US Navy game when they were both in the military.

After he first told me that story, I went to an old cardboard box of baseball cards that for some reason my mother failed to throw out after I left home and, sure enough, there was a Bob Turley baseball card that I happily gave to him, and it tickled him to no end.

I am sure there is a lot of memorabilia to go through but just wanted you to know why there is an old Yankee pitcher baseball card among his things and how much he appreciated it.

*Jerry Lonergan*

---

**Jerry Lonergan** - June 27, 2024 at 05:59 PM

EB

“ Steph, so sorry to hear about your dad. He was such a kind soul, never knew a stranger. I know he will be deeply missed. Condolences to all of the family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Wrapping my arms around you and giving you a hug. Always Ellie Gartner Brooke

---

**Ellie Gartner Brooke** - June 27, 2024 at 03:39 PM