



George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden

April 20, 1940 - July 24, 2020

We will be live streaming G. Daniel's funeral service Saturday, August 1st, at 10 a.m. on our Facebook page. When you click this link, it will take you to our Facebook page. You might need to scroll down at 10 a.m. until you see the title G Daniel Harden's Funeral Mass. KBFFH Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Kevin-Brennan-Family-Funeral-Home-116876148342762/>)

Professor George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden, 80 years old, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, died peacefully Friday, July 24, 2020, at Stormont-Vail Healthcare in Topeka, Kansas, with his wife, Mary, at his side.

Dr. Harden was a respected scholar, teacher and school administrator who retired from Washburn University as a full professor of education, specializing in education law and the philosophy of education.

Accepting a gubernatorial appointment, Dr. Harden served multiple terms as chairman of the Kansas Ethics Commission. He was elected to the Board of Education of the Jefferson West School District.

Dr. Harden graduated from Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, and earned his Ph.D. in record time from Kansas State University while serving as the principal of Hanover High School.

He met his bride in 1973 as the two enjoyed a spirited discussion about a framed poster of former Sen. Barry Goldwater on G. Daniel's office wall. They wed on Feb. 2 of 1974, Groundhog Day, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota during 40 degrees below zero winter cold spell.

Always youthful in mind and attitude, Dr. Harden never quit learning new ways to celebrate life. He became an accomplished wood sculptor in his 70s and enjoyed taking his grandchildren to wood-carving lessons. A cellist and pianist since high school, G. Daniel became proficient with the violin later in life. He was multilingual and enjoyed global travel with Mary.

Dr. Harden centered his life on the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and inspired countless others to lead Christ-centered lives. He was a member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, That Man is You and the Knights of Columbus.

G. Daniel is preceded in death by two brothers, Butch and Michael.

He is survived by Mary, their dog Gunther, and five children: Kelly Briggs and her husband Michael, Paul Laugesen and his wife Cathy, Wayne Laugesen and his wife Dede, Joshua Harden, and Rebecca Waugh.

Grandchildren include Sarah B. Meyer, Katie Griffin, Daniel Laugesen, Larry Laugesen, Julia Robertson, Mary Laugesen, George Laugesen, Oscar Laugesen, Huey Laugesen, Walter Laugesen, Fred Laugesen, G Roy Laugesen, Hattie Harden, Rose Harden, Hannah Waugh, Joseph Waugh, Jacob Waugh, Quinn Waugh, Luke Waugh; and great-grandchildren, Bennett Meyer, Adelyn Meyer, and Joseph Laugesen.

Surviving siblings include his sisters, Diane Harincar and Jean Ann Johnson and husband Alton, and brother, Patrick Knotts and his wife, Julie.

Visitation will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, at Most Pure Heart of

Mary Catholic Church, where the rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. A Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of G. Daniel Harden will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Church. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property at <https://www.tfp.org/act/donate/> (PO Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331); or to Catholic Charities of Topeka, 234 South Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66603 (please include "for Topeka" on the memo line).

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home is taking care of arrangements. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

3616 SW 6th Street
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

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

Rosary

JUL 31. 6:30 PM (CT)

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

Requiem Mass

AUG 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Harden was the best professor I ever had at Washburn. He was such a good-spirited man!*

mark - April 03, 2024 at 07:45 PM



“ *George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *We both enjoyed the few visits with Dan that we had . . . not nearly enough. Our best wishes to Mary and the entire family. Cheerz! Mary and Gene Sorensen*

Mary and Gene S - July 24, 2021 at 09:54 PM



“ *I was contacted by Dan thru ancestry we are cousins thru the Knotts family my life was made richer by getting to know him RIP*

gary I gibson - April 20, 2021 at 02:31 AM



“ *Daniel and I had recently become acquainted, after discovering our relationship through my mother's bloodline. I am heartbroken as we were going to meet in person when this was all over, so he could meet my kids and I could meet more family. I will always cherish the deep conversations, the laughs, and the thoughtful discussion on how genes can produce similar personality traits even when you never knew your ancestors... Rest In Peace my friend. Joey Epperson (chidester/smalldridge)*

joey epperson - September 19, 2020 at 11:49 AM

DG

“ I am so sorry to hear about Dr.Harden...I was lucky enough to be able to teach him how to play the violin. I know he really enjoyed it and we played together for many years. Dr. Harden was such a smart man and a sweet man. We had many conversations about violins and music. Prayers to his wife and family. I will miss his laughter and his candor. Rest in peace my friend. I will always remember you and maybe someday we'll get our violins out and play together again in heaven.

Diane M Gillenwater - August 02, 2020 at 11:30 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.



July 31, 2020 at 06:31 PM

JR

“ I always loved the philosophical and political discussions with Dr Dan. He had a knack for making you think. Our deepest sympathies and condolences from the Reynolds Clan.

John F Reynolds - July 31, 2020 at 02:49 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.



July 31, 2020 at 03:07 AM

LF

“ *R.I.P. George Daniel Harden
My brother, my mentor, my professor, my confidant, my counselor.
Your words, actions, care and your knowledge has meant so much
for my life, career, soul, and my family (in which your family is part
of my family)!
I have known you for 15+ years, from the Education Department
days at Washburn University with our long chats about all sorts of
worldly topics/experiences, to Church Masses, to Theological
Discussions, Church Groups, Bible Studies, Volunteering ventures
& Retreats!
Your work is not done my brother because of the impact you have
given myself and many others along the way!
Thank you for your presence in my life, for my family and I are
Blessed to get to know you!
Love you brother Georgito "Danielito"!*

*May God Bless You and please pray & watch over Mary and all of
us.*

See you later my brother!

*Hugo "Leo" Cangiani
Your Brother in Christ
Tu Hermano en Cristo*

Leo & Maria Cangiani Family - July 30, 2020 at 06:49 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the
family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.*



July 30, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.*



July 30, 2020 at 05:24 PM



“ *To the family of Dr. Harden may God comfort you and grant you peace. Dr. Harden was my teacher 2001 to 2004 at WU and I leraned so much from him as an international student I attribute most of my success at WU to him. He was a good man. Rest in peace Dr. Harden.*

Mercy - July 30, 2020 at 05:09 PM



“ *Dr. Harden was such a great teacher and mentor to me and a great friend to my family! We will miss him! Baili*

Baili Zhang - July 30, 2020 at 04:21 PM



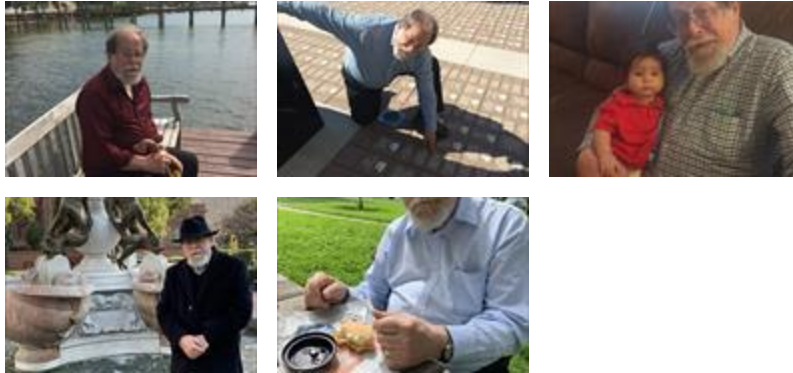
“ *Rene', John, Luke and Logan Kammeier purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.*



Rene', John, Luke and Logan Kammeier - July 30, 2020 at 02:34 PM

PL

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Paul Laugesem - July 30, 2020 at 01:30 PM

PL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album

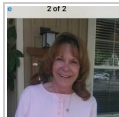


Paul Laugesem - July 30, 2020 at 01:24 PM

CM

A wonderful couple. I served on the Jeff West Board of Education. Enjoyed every minute of it. And you could tell how much he loved Mary by the way he spoke of her. God bless and keep you all.

Carol Meneley - August 01, 2020 at 12:34 AM



Thanks, Paul, for this beautiful pic of Dan and Mary. On Feb 2, 1970 Mary and Liz came to visit me in the hospital when I had my son, Kirk. The first time I met Dan was when we took a walk around Monument, CO and he was already familiar with my Maiden name. He knew it was French - 13 letters - and he knew what it meant in English. Two special people who touched my life briefly but remained in my heart always - almost 50 years.

Theresa Bellefeuille-Laugesen - August 01, 2020 at 02:00 PM

MS

“ Dan was a good man and an wonderful colleague at Washburn. I treasure his thoughtfulness, wisdom, and quick wit. Sending condolences and love to Mary and his family.

Mary Shoop - July 30, 2020 at 11:34 AM

IP

“ My deepest heartfelt condolences to his wife Mary and his beloved family. Dr. Harden touched many lives, May God bless and give family spiritual strength throughout this time of mourning.



isidra pastrano - July 29, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.



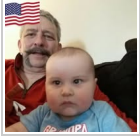
July 29, 2020 at 03:41 PM

JS

“ We send our condolences. I enjoyed serving with Dan on the Ethics Commission.

- John and Patsy Solbach.

John Solbach - July 29, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ I am honored to call you my friend. My Friend, I offer you this Irish Prayer:

*Death is nothing at all
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other, That, we still are.*

*Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes, we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.*

All is well.

Nothing is past; nothing is lost. One brief moment and all will be as it was before only better, infinitely happier and forever we will all be one together with Christ.

Sammy Wall - July 29, 2020 at 03:16 PM

SF

“ *Very saddened to hear this news. I send sincere condolences and offer prayers that the compassion and comfort of God, beyond all understanding, be felt in a special way by all the family and friends of Chair Harden. I was fortunate to meet him in his service to Kansas on the Governmental Ethics Commission, which he began in 2011. He was the Chair from 2013 until 2019. He was dedicated and took his position seriously. Quite an engaging conversationalist, I miss chatting about his extensive travels, interest and his faith. Oft times, he would ask that I offer prayer for family members, friends and situations. Indeed, he was a genuine man, concerned for others. As it says in Matthew: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Peace be with you.*



Sherry Fergel - July 29, 2020 at 02:43 PM

GB

“ *“Anyone who could accomplish half of what Dan did would be satisfied with their life. To raise five children, obtain a Doctor’s degree in history, become a college history Professor, play the fiddle, become a first class whittler, own a newspaper, be bilingual, a fan of Bluegrass, world traveler, raise Scottish Highlander cattle, and his own hogs. Dan once told me that the best way to learn History was to get a job teaching it. He will be missed but thank God he lived. Gary and Carol Burkholder”*

Gary Burkholder - July 29, 2020 at 01:48 PM

HS

“ Daniel and I shared some very good scotch and some very deep conversations. Dolly and I are missing a treasured friend and the world is missing a civilizing influence. Pray for me Danny and I will pray for you hopefully we will see you somewhat sone.



Herbert Bruce Seel - July 29, 2020 at 01:47 PM

 Bill Welch

“ Professor, I'm really going to miss our Saturday morning rides to TMIY and other events we spent time going to. Our talks usually centered on Catholicism and politics. We had a lot of laughs and I really enjoyed your sense of humor. Your laugh (kind of like an ornery little boy) cracked me up. Your love of history and great memory of historical events was impressive. I also appreciated your willingness to defend your position and beliefs aggressively when they were challenged by folks that only thought they knew what they were talking about. LOL The fact that you were friends with a doofus like me without a college degree shows that you were well grounded and could get along with anyone. That, or you just felt sorry for me. Either way, I'm very glad we met and were able to become friends and spend time together.

You married a beautiful woman in Mary and I know how much you loved and cared for her. You guys were great together. Know that I will help look after her and I am fully at your family's disposal for whatever they may need. You have an astounding Christian progeny who are left as testimony to your values and love for our Lord. You were very proud of all of your children, grandchildren and great-grand children and bragged on them regularly.

I will really miss you. Pray for me as you enjoy heavenly bliss with our Savior, Jesus.

Bill Welch - July 29, 2020 at 12:15 PM

FS

“ I am honored to having called Dan, friend. I have valued his friendship for over 20 years. I can't agree more with his youthful enthusiasm. I also observed that he viewed the good, the true and the beautiful with a childlike innocence. For a number of years Dan and I were involved in a conspiracy. The two of us liked going to political events, concerts etc.. Neither of our wives were really interested. We came up with a strategy. Dan would tell Mary that my wife Cathy was going. I would tell my wife that Mary was going. For the sake of friendship they accompanied us. This went on for quite a while until eventually they compared stories. They did forgive us. I admired Dan for his devotion to his Catholic faith, to his family and to his friends. My condolences and prayers for Mary and all of the family and friends. May he Rest In Peace!

Francis Slobodnik - July 29, 2020 at 10:54 AM

DS

“ Mr. Harden was a Wonderful principal, in Lake Park, Minnesota. He was a kind, smart, and quiet man. My class in 1974 was a very disruptive class. He put up with alot. I always enjoyed visiting with him in the hallways as a lot of my friends congregated there at lunch time. It was always fun to get him to laugh at our silliness. A great man and will surely be missed! Rest in Peace my friend.

Debra Askelso Sander - July 29, 2020 at 10:39 AM

TG

“ So very very sorry for your loss - for all of ours!
I have an angel that Uncle Dan carved for me that has been on display for a very long time because it always makes me smile thinking of the family and how Uncle Dan found us all!
Now we have a true angel watching over us in heaven.....rest in peace Uncle Dan!

All our love - Gregg and Theresa

Theresa Griffin - July 29, 2020 at 07:43 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.



July 28, 2020 at 07:55 PM

NT

“ Natalie, Regina, Howie, Cathy & all your teammates purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of George Daniel "G. Daniel" Harden.



Natalie, Regina, Howie, Cathy & all your teammates - July 28, 2020 at 07:37 PM

HO

“ Our condolences to Paul Laugesen and his family on the passing of G Daniel - our thoughts and prayers to you. Your teammates howie

howie - July 28, 2020 at 07:22 PM

PL

Thank you Howie and teammates. I really appreciate the kind note of sympathy and condolence. It really does mean a lot to hear from friends from work during such sad times. I sincerely hope you and your families are well. Paul

Paul Laugesen - July 28, 2020 at 09:37 PM

PL

Natalie, Regina, Howie, Cathy, thank you very much. Very proud to be part of such a kind and thoughtful team. Paul

Paul Laugesen - July 28, 2020 at 10:08 PM

RS

I was very sorry to hear of Dan's passing. I very much regret having drifted out of his orbit in the last few years. Time passes so quickly and opportunities slip away. May God succor your family and bless you all with comfort during this time of letting go.

P.S. to Mary.....I am willing to wager Dan has already engaged several friends in spirited debate after passing through the pearly gates.

Rene L Smalldridge - July 29, 2020 at 03:29 AM

MW

My condolences to Commissioner Harden's family. I served with Dan on the Kansas Ethics Commission and enjoyed getting to know him while discussing current events with him. I am very saddened by his passing. My prayers are with his family and friends.

Marisel Walston - July 29, 2020 at 12:45 PM

TW

Getting to know Dan and Mary the last few years has been one of the best experiences of my life. So rewarding in many ways. Dan was always ready to have an interesting intelligent and often times funny discussion of about anything. He really has brightened up my retirement years by his presence. I will miss him greatly as a true friend. Our love and condolences to Mary and his family. Tom and Karen Wigley

Thomas M Wigley - July 29, 2020 at 01:44 PM



The world has lost a most valued teacher. Dr. Harden taught students to think beyond the concepts written in textbooks. The life of Dr. Harden shows how one man can inspire thousands. Rest in Peace.

Roxanne Wendt - August 01, 2020 at 04:39 PM



My condolences to the family. I had just learned of Dan's passing today from my son Derek and was deeply saddened. Derek always talked highly of his uncle Dan.

Pamela Duzan - August 21, 2020 at 01:55 AM