



## Gerald James Letourneau

March 27, 1937 - December 13, 2019

Gerald James Letourneau, 82, Topeka, passed away on December 13, 2019. He was born to Norbert and Marie (Rheault) Letourneau on March 27, 1937 in Aurora, Kansas. Gerald married Betty Jo Vaughan in 1960. She preceded him in death in 2005.

After graduating high school, Gerald attended St. Benedicts College in Atchison, KS, where he played basketball and was President of the Student Body before graduating in 1959. In 1962, he graduated with honors from Washburn University School of Law where he was editor-in-chief of the Washburn Law Journal. Gerald was the editor of the New York University Intramural Law Review while working on his Masters in tax from NYU, graduating in 1963.

Gerald began his Topeka law practice with Harry Colmery, who wrote the GI Bill of Rights at the very desk that Gerald spent many years working at after Harry passed away. Gerald later donated that desk to the Kansas State Historical Society. He practiced law in Topeka for more than 40 years. He was a senior member of Colmery, McClure, Letourneau, Merriam, and Stauffer, P.A. when that firm consolidated its practice with Goodell Stratton Edmonds & Palmer LLP in 1987.

Gerald was a past President of the Topeka Bar Association, and Board of

Trustees of Hayden Catholic High School. He was an active member of St. Mathew's Catholic Church, where he was a Parish Council member. Gerald was also on the Board of Directors of Topeka Community Mental Health Association, a past Trustee for The Villages, Inc, and past chairman of the Washburn University Law Institute.

He is survived by his sons, Michael Letourneau (Beth Williams) and Edward Letourneau (Lisa Ludwig) of Topeka; grandchildren, Jared Letourneau (Krista Neske) of Topeka, Joshua Letourneau (Kali Huske) of Emporia, KS, Julia Letourneau of Topeka, Michelle Letourneau-Belock (Ryan Belock) of New York City, NY, and Steven Letourneau of Topeka; and great granddaughters, Chanel and Mia. Preceding him in death were his parents; wife, Betty Jo; daughter, Louise Letourneau-Pound; and son, Paul Letourneau.

Visitation will be 5-7:30 p.m. Friday, December 20, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS, where the rosary will be prayed at 6:00. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 21, at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 2700 SE Virginia Avenue, Topeka, KS. Interment will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hayden Catholic High School, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka, KS 66614.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 20. 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

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

## Rosary

DEC 20. 6:00 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

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DEC **21**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church  
2700 SE Virginia Ave  
Topeka, KS 66605

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gerald James Letourneau*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - January 02, 2020 at 12:27 PM



“ *Gerald James Letourneau*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald James Letourneau.*



December 19, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ *Ed and Family -*

*Thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family! I remember meeting your Dad when we were in Junior Achievement. God Bless!*

Michael Browne - December 16, 2019 at 02:14 PM

KB

“ Ed & Lisa, I remember when I 1st met Jerry at work many years ago. He found out I was a Christ the King parishioner and told me his son lived out of state but had started tithing CTK because they were moving back to Topeka and they wanted their daughter to start kindergarten there the next fall. He was so happy to have you back in Topeka and back in the Catholic schools. Gary taught both Michelle and Steven years ago at CTK, and they're both grown adults, with Steven following in his Grandpa's footsteps! He was a wonderful Christian gentleman and I know he was always at the kids' events at CTK and Hayden. May he rest in the Lord's peace.

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**Kelly Baldrige** - December 15, 2019 at 06:15 PM



“ Prayers for everyone as I enjoyed working for him at the Colmery Law Firm.

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**Patty Simpson** - December 15, 2019 at 01:40 PM

KC

“ Dr. Ed, please accept my sincere condolences ---- I always considered it my privilege to be able to call your father a friend --- my favorite experience was when he, Harry and myself traveled together for depositions in Kansas City and then to Denver for arguments before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (there it was my honor to introduce Jerry for induction into the Tenth Circuit's bar). He was truly as good of a person as one could find. Ken Crockett

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**Ken Crockett** - December 15, 2019 at 11:10 AM