



J. Kevin Murphy

March 25, 1927 - July 15, 2018

J. Kevin Murphy, 91, Topeka, Kansas, died Sunday, July 15, 2018.

Born March 25, 1927, in New York City to Lester and Rosemary Freeman Murphy, Kevin attended schools in Great Neck, Long Island, served in the U.S. Navy, graduated from Colgate University in 1947 and earned his LLD in 1950 from Fordham University Law School.

In 1950 Kevin's professional career began with a law practice specializing in litigation and general corporate matters. From 1957-1976, Kevin served as President and CEO of Purolator Courier Corporation, the first international overnight delivery service.

From 1977-1985, Kevin was President and CEO of Trailways, CTS Services, Inc. and Jartran, Inc. In 1985, Kevin joined the Gabelli Group as Managing Director. He organized and was Chairman and President of 655 Associates where he focused on crisis management and corporate turnaround activities.

In addition to his professional career, Kevin served on, among others, the Boards of Directors of the US Chamber of Commerce, American Management Associates and Pinkerton, Inc. He organized the POW/MIA Scholarship programs (for which he received the highest civilian recognition from the Department of Defense) and support for overseas absentee voting as well as

other programs

In Kansas, Kevin served on various boards including the University of St. Mary and St. Francis Health Center. In 2003, Kevin was recognized by the Shawnee County Medical Society with the President's Award for Outstanding Citizen Achievement and the "Betterment of Public Health in Shawnee County, KS".

Kevin married the love of his life, Mary Alice Passman, on January 30, 1971. She survives of the home. He also leaves a son, Glenn Murphy, of Florida, daughter, Elizabeth Phelan, of Florida, and grandson, Kevin Murphy.

Honoring Kevin's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no public service.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Most Pure Heart of Mary Church and the Topeka Symphony Society, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall

TN

“ My wife and I joined Kevin and others for a trip to the Super Bowl in Los Angeles when the Washington Redskins played. We stopped in Las Vegas on the way. It was a trip to remember that I was telling others about today, when I learned that Kevin had passed. Much love to his family.

Timothy D Naegele - August 13, 2024 at 01:04 PM



“ J. Kevin Murphy

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

SU

“ Dear Mary Alice,

I looked for you today to share with you mother's passing and saw that Kevin had just passed as well. I send you an enormous hug. I do not have your phone number. When you feel like talking you can reach me at 206 417-3711 or via email susanarnoldaldea@gmail.com

Love you Mary Alice

Susan Arnold

susan - July 27, 2018 at 10:08 AM

CZ

“ Dear Mary Alice,
I believe I first met you and Kevin when he served on the Board at Saint Mary College. How lovely that Kevin's story in the newspaper identified you as "the love of his life." Not everyone deserves and is honored with that description. I hope that his devotion to you and the life you shared will be of comfort in the days and years ahead. I think It is truly a blessing to have good memories of a shared life when the person you lived with and loved is not with you as in the past. May your adventures together in life bring you comfort as you await your reunion in heaven.
Sincerely, Carolyn Saenz Zimmerman

Carolyn J Zimmerman - July 24, 2018 at 06:30 PM

TN

I met Kevin when I worked in the U.S. Senate; and after I left, Kevin hosted several of us at Super Bowl VII in Los Angeles.

We stopped in Los Vegas, and it was a whirlwind trip, enjoyed by all.

May God continue to bless him.

Timothy D Naegele - July 01, 2023 at 03:30 PM

MM

“ I learned of the loss of my dear, sweet, friend and past employer (13 years) Kevin today and I am heartbroken. I have so many wonderful memories of him and the many years we were friends and our employer/employee relationship. He treated me with warmth and respect and would act so proud when we would go to a function or dinner together. He would always introduce me to anyone and everyone he knew and always made me feel so special. I will always cherish the dinners and pre dinner cocktails at their lovely home, that my husband, David, and I would share with he and Mary Alice. He was a very personable man and was so very generous. He gained many friendships through his business contacts and clients over the years, and he remained loyal and lifelong friends with many or most of them. He had a very exceptional keen mind and was very business savvy and would fight for any cause he truly believed in. I was so very proud to have him as a friend and as a employer. I loved him dearly as I do his precious Mary Alice and will always treasure our friendship. What wonderful memories I have! I feel so blessed to have known him and been his friend. Goodbye dear man. You are finally at peace. Please know how very much you meant to me and how much I learned from you. You are forever in my heart. Love, Marla

Marla J. Marlow - July 18, 2018 at 06:01 PM