



James "Jim" Hopkins

February 16, 1938 - November 4, 2025

James "Jim" L. Hopkins Sr. passed away peacefully at home while in the company of his sons Tuesday morning November 4th. He died at the age of 87 after a long struggle with kidney disease.

Jim was born in Topeka, Kansas in February 1938, to William and Mildred Hopkins, the 5th of five children. He remained a resident of Topeka his entire life and graduated from Topeka High School. Jim married the love of his life, Sarah Irene Adams in August of 1961. They had three sons and enjoyed 57 years of marriage until Irene's passing in 2018.

Jim served our country honorably in the Kansas National Guard. He worked at General Printing and Paper for decades making many lifelong friends. In his early 20's Jim became a firefighter for the City of Topeka, completing a 30-year career. Jim was a proud dues paying member of the International Association of Firefighters and served as union treasurer and Statehouse lobbyist. He enjoyed the ongoing camaraderie, attending retirees' coffee until a few weeks ago.

Working two to three jobs in his adult life to support his family, Jim also managed to attend nearly all of his sons' sporting and school events and later for his grandchildren. He served on the PTA, helped coach Little League, led Y-Guides and scouting. Many men have hobbies; Jim's was caring for his

immediate and extended family. He loved spending time with his nieces and nephews and their children. Mechanically inclined, he was always available to help repair anyone's car, refrigerator, AC, fence or roof. He would show up at 4 in the morning to help push a car out of the snow or graciously take a friend or sibling to the doctor if they needed help. He loved to entertain with backyard pool parties, Christmas Eve gatherings, and annual 4th of July celebration.

Jim was also preceded in death by his siblings Bill, Irene, Jack "Bud" and Peggy and his son James L. Hopkins Jr.

He is survived by his sons, Commander Kenneth Hopkins USN (Ret) and Thomas Hopkins; daughter-in-law, Cheryl Buchanan; granddaughter, Sarah; and grandson, Doug; as well as his faithful companions, Sunshine, and Shadow.

Jim was a loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle and Friend; he will be greatly missed.

Visitation will take place on Friday, November 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Funeral Service will be Saturday, November 15, at 10:00 a.m. all at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS, 66614. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Blood Cancer United and sent in care of the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

3616 SW 6th Street
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **14**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

NOV **15**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

LA

“ *Such great memories of Jim. From dancing in the early days... (including the jitterbug) to all the fun swimming parties our family enjoyed with the Hopkins family. What a great sense of humor... always able to tell the best jokes and make everyone laugh and smile. He will truly be missed but at least he is up in heaven with Bill talking about the good ol' days. -Linda Adkins & Family*

Linda Adkins - November 15, 2025 at 11:39 PM

TH

“ *Wishing I could be there with my Hopkins family today. I'm lucky to have grown up near Uncle Jim and have lots of memories. I'll always cherish the effort he and his siblings put into getting our family together and the wonderful example they set for us. Sending love to Tom, Kenny, Cheryl, Sarah and Doug. Love you all!*



Teri Hopkins - November 15, 2025 at 12:12 PM

DS

“ So very grateful to have grown up next door to the Hopkins family. Mr. Hopkins was amazing and always working in some way or another, but still took time to spend with his family. He patiently explained the workings of the lawnmower while I stood next to Kenny in the garage. He loved his Lawnboys! (all of them, machines and real boys) He was stern, yet kind and witty.

One day I brought my kitten over and Kenny asked if I could come in. I guess Kenny and I were about 11 years old. He said I could. The moment he saw I had a kitten in my arms he exclaimed: "Now wait a minute! I said Dana could come in, not her cat." He was a man who knew what was right and lived every moment to be the best husband, father, citizen and neighbor he could be.

He was constantly enriching the lives of his children and their friends. He strove to instill work a firm work ethic in his children, and made doing homework a priority. He taught there was time for work and "play time" was reserved for after working. I remember waiting for Kenny to be finished doing the chore his father had assigned or get back from mowing. I was also anxious to start having fun, but Kenny would tell me he had to unload the lawnmowers and take care of anything else that needed to be done. He faithfully followed all the rules, did the chores and became who he is because of the way his parents raised him. Mr. Hopkins was so proud of his boys for becoming the kind of men he wished for them to be.

Mr Hopkins was human, but from where I sit, he was a close to perfect as a man can get.

Dana Stelting-Kempf - November 13, 2025 at 09:18 PM

JH

That was beautiful Dana. Thank you ❤️

Jack Hopkins - November 14, 2025 at 08:34 AM

KF

When Jim and Cheryl married, Jim and Irene treated us like family. 4th of July gatherings were always entertaining. They will be missed.

Mike and Kathy Frank

kathy Frank - November 15, 2025 at 07:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Hopkins.*



November 13, 2025 at 10:53 AM

JW

“ *Jim's tireless work during the transition from the city's local pension plan to the Kansas police and firefighters pension plan has and will benefit firefighters and police officers well into the future.*

Thanks Jim

Jim Weaver

jim weaver - November 13, 2025 at 10:13 AM

GH

“ *Both Jim and Irene were wonderful friends and neighbors. Jim will be missed as a faithful member and supporter of the Vaquero Lake Club. I will miss our frequent yard conversations.*

Gene Howerter - November 10, 2025 at 03:12 PM

WS

“ with love, Karen Stanbery purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Hopkins.



with love, Karen Stanbery - November 10, 2025 at 02:58 PM

LS

“ Love, Marsa, Carrie&David, Sherrie&Chris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Hopkins.

Love, Marsa, Carrie&David, Sherrie&Chris - November 09, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Hopkins.



November 09, 2025 at 08:36 PM

JH

“ Jerri H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Hopkins.

Jerri H. - November 07, 2025 at 06:46 PM

AA

“ Jim was such a kind soul, always had jokes. Sending thoughts and prayers for comfort to the entire family

Amy Acridge - November 07, 2025 at 02:00 PM

PA

“ Jim was such a caring man. Always a Christmas card. Prayers for his family 💜💜💜

pat adams - November 07, 2025 at 09:42 AM

LC

“ Lori and Cheryl planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Hopkins.

Lori and Cheryl - November 06, 2025 at 02:43 PM

LC

“ Lori and Cheryl purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James "Jim" Hopkins.



Lori and Cheryl - November 06, 2025 at 02:43 PM