



James Kirby Jr.

February 18, 1937 - December 3, 2021

James Houston Kirby, Jr., 84, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Friday, December 3, 2021.

Jim was born February 18, 1937, to James, Sr. and Laura Seitz Kirby in Topeka. He graduated from Laneri Catholic High School as the class valedictorian, graduated magna cum laude from Texas Christian University, earned his master's degree from Emporia State University and completed additional graduate work at Kansas State University.

Jim was a teacher for 19 years beginning with Laneri Catholic High School in Fort Worth, St. Mark's School in Dallas, Texas, St. Mary of the Plains High School in Dodge City and at Emporia State University where he was a state advisor to Future Business Leaders of America. Many of Jim's former students remember him as the best professor ever.

Jim left teaching for a management position at Thomas Transfer and Storage Company, Inc. in Emporia where he was employed for over 30 years, retiring from a full-time schedule in 2002 but continuing on a part time basis until 2009.

No matter where he lived, Jim always took a great interest in and was involved in life. He was editor of the Kansas Business Teachers Magazine for

several years, was a member of the Kansas Business Education Association and National Business Education Association as well as Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and Delta Pi Epsilon graduate business education fraternity.

He was a member of the Emporia Lions Club, in which he served as president and the Emporia Chamber of Commerce. While in Emporia, Jim was a member of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Liturgy Committee and Parish Council of Sacred Heart Church. He was a cantor, lector, Eucharistic minister and choir member in Emporia and member of the choir in Dodge City.

Jim was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Sons of the American Legion, Orphan Train Heritage Society and Vacuum Cleaner Collectors Club.

Jim was currently a member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, the Order of St. Francis and the Serra Club of Topeka, as well as a member of the Resident's Council at Oak Creek Senior Living where Jim held the offices of president and secretary twice and vice-president once.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 11, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church where visitation will be one hour prior to Mass. Inurnment will follow in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, St. Marys, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Most Pure Heart of Mary Church or to the James H. Kirby Memorial Fund at Emporia State University, and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery in St. Marys

St. Marys, KS

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *James Kirby Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *My fondest memory of Jimmy was listening to him and my Grandma Winnie giggling over something silly. His laugh was contagious. He was always so kind to my family and me, checking in on my parents almost every day.*

We will miss you, Jimmy. I suspect there are lots of hugs and giggles going on in heaven right about now. Rest easy.

Love, Lori

Lori Carrigan - December 10, 2021 at 06:18 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Kirby Jr..*



December 08, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ *I wish I had more time with Jim, I only knew him 6 months. I served him Breakfast and Lunch at Oak Creek and I really enjoyed his stories. Very gentle and caring soul. RIP my friend*

Ej Yewell - December 07, 2021 at 09:12 PM

DS

“ *Debby (Madison) Simms-Watson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Kirby Jr..*



Debby (Madison) Simms-Watson - December 07, 2021 at 07:43 PM

JL

“ *To the Family,*

I have fond memories of Jim not only as an instructor at KSTC but also later when he was working at Thomas Transfer & Storage. He had an excellent memory & many varied interests. He took an interest in those he knew.

So sorry for your loss.

Joyce & Tom Lohmeyer

Joyce Lohmeyer - December 07, 2021 at 03:12 PM

BP

“ *To The Family,*

I used to see Mr. Kirby around town. We always had the best visits at the grocery store. I am sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.



Betty Pierson

Betty Pierson - December 07, 2021 at 11:18 AM

MH

“ My brother Larry Matney became good friends with Jim. I loved talking to him when I came to Oak Creek. He was very interesting and enjoyed getting people together. Had many lively discussions. We will miss him very much. Mary Lou Harding and Larry Matney

Mary Lou Harding - December 07, 2021 at 11:12 AM

JP

“ I got to know Jim at Oak Creek as our church provides a monthly communion service there. Jim--not unexpectedly--was an active participant and we particularly enjoyed singing together. The last time I saw him he graced me with these words: you've been a good friend. You, as well, Jim. Rest in peace.

JoLana Pinon - December 06, 2021 at 09:53 AM