



## John Brooke

June 8, 1947 - March 25, 2024

With family at his bedside, John D. Brooke, Jr., 76, of Topeka, Kansas passed away on Monday, March 25, 2024.

Born in 1947, to John “Jack” and Ruth Capeless Brooke, he was the oldest of 11 children. He attended Hayden High School and married his high school sweetheart, Sally Gay in 1967; they shared more than 56 years of marriage together. They had three children, Tracie, Toby and Taryn, daughter-in-law, Gulhan, and two grandchildren, Kelsey and Melodi.

John served in the National Guard, worked for Santa Fe Railway and retired from the Kansas Gas Service after 34 years.

He coached boys’ baseball, girls’ softball and girls’ basketball until the girls were taller than he was! He enjoyed attending theatre to support his daughters’ and granddaughter’s performances. He attended his children’s and grandchildren’s sporting events in every sport in which they were involved no matter in what town or state the game was being played.

John volunteered for years at Corita’s Corner Sandwich Ministry to make sandwiches for those in need and he was a member of Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church. He loved hosting family get-togethers, “flying” the turkey he would prepare for large Thanksgiving meals, grilling and playing ball

in the yard. John always loved being there for his family.

John and Sally were members of the Topeka Ski Club for more than 46 years and loved many family vacations in Colorado. In summers, they had many good times jet skiing at Lake Perry. John loved fishing with his son, brothers, nephews and buddies.

As empty nesters, John enjoyed all his friends, looked forward to breakfasts with retirees from the gas company and playing golf. He crossed items off his bucket list, including skiing the Alps in Austria, joining his daughter in Rome, exploring Ireland with his wife and seeing the 2022 Kentucky Derby in Louisville. He loved experiencing the Cooperstown Museum with his son and grandson and unexpectedly, meeting the retired Royals Baseball player, George Brett, while on a trip to watch his grandson play in a baseball tournament. He was an avid K-State, KU, Royals and Chiefs fan who loved to watch the games with family and friends!

John will be greatly missed by many. His survivors include his wife, Sally Brooke; children, Tracie Brooke, Toby Brooke (Gulhan) and Taryn Brooke; grandchildren, Kelsey Brooke and Melodi Brooke; siblings, Carole Shapiro (David), Ruthie Droste (Dan), Sandy McGill (David), Susie Schell (Gregg), Janice Brooke and Michael Brooke; sisters-in-law, Ellie Brooke, Sandy Brooke; and brother-in-law, David Eberhart; 19 nieces and nephews and 19 great-nieces and great-nephews; and many cousins.

John was preceded in death by his siblings, Danny Brooke, Barbara Eberhart, Jimmy Brooke and Cathy Whitaker.

Visitation will be Friday, April 5, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at Mother

Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church.

Inurnment will be at 1:30 p.m. at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mother Teresa of Calcutta Church or Corita's Corner Sandwich Ministry, sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 5. 4:00 PM - 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

APR 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church  
2014 NW 46th Street  
Topeka, KS 66618

## Committal Service

APR 6. 1:30 PM (CT)

Mount Calvary Cemetery  
801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606



# Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Brooke



---

**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - April 02, 2024 at 02:53 PM

JR

“ Sally and family, so sorry and shocked to hear of John's passing. I enjoyed talking with him at the Hayden Mini Reunions. I hope that you are doing well and will keep you in thoughts and prayers.  
Jerry Ries

---

**Jerry Ries** - May 06, 2024 at 03:48 PM

SH

“ When you hear the expression "heart of gold," John truly did have a heart of gold. He always seemed to quietly show up when someone needed something. No matter what the task he would have a smile on his face and just get it done. Not wanting anything in return.

*I'm lucky to have so many fond memories with him and Sally. It didn't matter what excursion we were on, it was never boring and laughs were always had.*

*My thoughts are with Sally and his family. He will be greatly missed.*  
Suzy Holmes

---

**Suzy Holmes** - April 08, 2024 at 01:01 PM

DF

“ Our thoughts are with you now, and in the days ahead.

Dolores Pottorf and family - April 06, 2024 at 09:37 AM

LB

“ John was a very good friend and will be missed by so many people, always remember the great times with John and his wife Sally, GOD BLESS BOTH and ALL HIS FAMILY

Larry Baer - April 05, 2024 at 03:10 PM

LF

“ Larry, Bob and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Brooke.



Larry, Bob and Family - April 05, 2024 at 03:01 PM

LF

“ Larry, Bob and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Brooke.

Larry, Bob and Family - April 05, 2024 at 03:01 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Brooke.



April 04, 2024 at 01:34 PM

BB

“ Bob Baer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Brooke.

Bob Baer - April 04, 2024 at 01:34 PM

JC

“ Sally and family - I was saddened to hear that John passed away. I hope his memory will always bring a smile to those who knew him and loved him. Will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. Jan Clausing

Janice Clausing - April 04, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of John Brooke.



April 04, 2024 at 08:33 AM

NF

“ Neill, Brenda Dobler and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Brooke.

Neill, Brenda Dobler and family - April 04, 2024 at 08:33 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Brooke.*



---

April 03, 2024 at 04:36 PM



“ *10 files added to the album John Brooke Photos*



---

**Taryn Brooke** - April 02, 2024 at 06:52 PM



“ *Sally, we are so sorry to hear about John. By reading the comments and looking at all of the wonderful pictures, we can tell that you two share so many beautiful memories. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

*Kathy and Steve Kesinger*

---

**Kathy and Steve Kesinger** - April 02, 2024 at 11:30 AM

PK

“ Sally, I'm so sorry to hear about John. May the grace of God be with you as you mourn. He was a great guy

Pete Kelly - April 01, 2024 at 12:22 PM

JJ

So sorry to hear about John. I enjoyed working with him at Kansas Gas. Prayers for the family during this difficult time.

Jeff Josephson - April 01, 2024 at 04:35 PM

SB

“ I met John and Sally many years ago through the Topeka Ski club. They both were always very friendly and congenial on the trips and club functions. It was a pleasure to have known John. My prayers are with you Sally.

Steve Burrell - March 31, 2024 at 09:31 PM

MS

“ I knew thru Marvin Poedale at locker as well as Gary Lundean and the guy at Winchester locker all very nice guys John will be missed

Mike Schaefer - March 31, 2024 at 07:39 PM

TB

“ 40 files added to the album John Brooke Photos



Taryn Brooke - March 31, 2024 at 08:28 AM

TR

*What beautiful memories*

Tina Copeland Ruiz - April 02, 2024 at 07:10 AM

ER

“ Sally and the Entire Brooke family, So sorry to hear to John's passing. What a great person and a friend to many. My first day at the Gas Company in 1986 I was in his crew along with Danny Pritchard. It was the beginning of a friendship for years. May you find comfort in knowing he touched so many lives in a positive way. Peace and Love. Emil Ramirez.

Emil Ramirez - March 30, 2024 at 06:56 PM

KG

“ I’m not sure where to start, so perhaps my earliest memory will suffice. I’m not sure how I got picked to be the ring bearer for the wedding because I had plenty of cousins and older brothers so I felt pretty cool. I remember having to stay after the wedding for pictures and although I was raised not to complain, eventually I got so hungry that I said something to Uncle Petune. 😊 soon enough I had a ham sandwich and us kids were having foot races out front of that small house. 😊 enough about me... I’m trying to remember if John ever missed one of the Gay family reunions, I know that Sally had to a time or two yet John always was there and was a member of our family regardless of bloodlines. He was always cheerful and quick to laugh . Sally was the perfect match as their long marriage bears out. He will be missed, but fondly remembered and his faith has now been rewarded. God bless you all, The Kurt Gay family

---

**Kurt Gay** - March 30, 2024 at 05:49 PM

PL

Sally and family my deepest condolences to you and. Family. I am at McCrites's for rehab after. a fall soo will be unable to attend service

---

**Phyllis Lemons** - March 31, 2024 at 01:59 PM

TW

“ Sally and Family ~  
So very Sorry for your Loss  
John was a Great Guy ~~ Outgoing Friendly and Caring  
" There may be no thing Greater than a Life ~ Well~ Loved " ♡ Terry  
White Family

---

**Tery/ Joan White** - March 30, 2024 at 05:15 PM

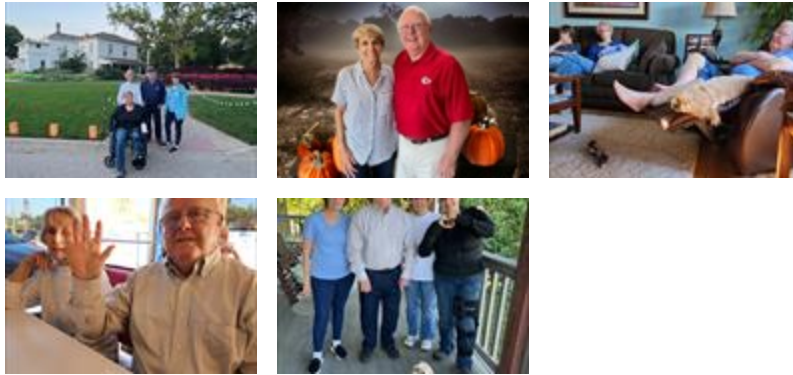
RL

“ *My condolences. I just visited with John at the Post 400 a couple of weeks ago. He was having a good time listening and dancing to the music. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.*

Richard Lira - March 30, 2024 at 02:27 PM

TR

“ *My Uncle John was a kindered spirit. He was so gentle and kind... even as children he treated us as if we were so important. I'm so blessed that I got to spend a few days with him this past year and what an amazing man. My Aunt Sally and him were the perfect pair. God knew what each one needed. He will be greatly missed*

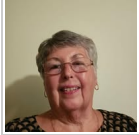


Tina Copeland Ruiz - March 30, 2024 at 12:45 PM

CU

“ *Met John and Sally through the Topeka Ski Club years ago. Also were in Ireland the same time as they were celebrating an anniversary. John played golf with Gary and the guys and had a great time. John and his sense of humor and the stories he would tell were a great joy. Condolences to Sally and all the family. He will be greatly missed. Gary & Cindy Umscheid*

Cindy G Umscheid - March 29, 2024 at 11:32 PM



“ *May you rest in peace John. Sally and family may God comfort all of you , and give you peace at this time of sorrow.*

Cheryl Herman - March 29, 2024 at 10:06 PM



“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Taryn Brooke - March 29, 2024 at 09:07 PM



*Bobo's Drive In was a special place where Dad asked Mom to marry him over their lunch break. I had a good time going back there with the two of them, after 50 years of marriage. There must be something in the Bobo's onion rings.*

Taryn Brooke - March 29, 2024 at 09:16 PM



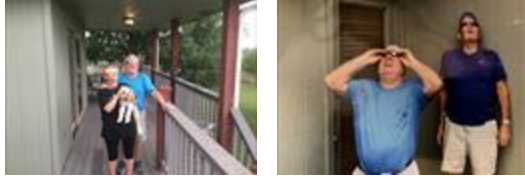
“ *Many friends from Dad's 34 years at Kansas Gas Service Company...*



TARYN BROOKE - March 29, 2024 at 08:37 PM

TB

“ *When the eclipse came to Kansas...*



**TARYN BROOKE** - March 29, 2024 at 08:01 PM

VS

“ *Condolences to the Brooke family. I was in the National Guard with John. We rode the same train to Fort Polk for our basic training. John was a fine person and friend. Virgil Schermerhorn*

**virgil schermerhorn** - March 29, 2024 at 07:56 PM

TB

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



**Taryn Brooke** - March 29, 2024 at 06:41 PM

TB

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



**Taryn Brooke** - March 29, 2024 at 06:14 PM

TB

*Thank you, Dad, for all you did for us, all the places you went for us and the example you left for us. You will be with us forever!*

**Taryn Brooke** - March 29, 2024 at 06:15 PM

RC

“ *So sad to hear this. Lot of memories from our kids at Holy Name, John and I working at Gas Co., lot of get togethers and great times. Thoughts and prayers to Sally and kids and entire Brooke Clan. Randy and Connie Collins*

**Randy Collins** - March 29, 2024 at 06:05 PM

JF

*Sally and family. Very sorry to hear of Johns passing. A lifetime of good memories from working with John so many years. Enjoyed our many outings shared. A good friend indeed. Will feel his passing deeply.*

**Jerry Froelich** - April 06, 2024 at 08:26 AM

CL

“ *Sorry for your loss Sally and family*

**Chris Larson** - March 29, 2024 at 05:27 PM

SM

“ *Sally and family, sending our sympathy and prayers for your peace.*

*Linda and Steve McGinnis*

**Steve and Linda McGinnis** - March 29, 2024 at 03:56 PM

EB

“ *Our condolences to the family. Sending prayers as you move forward. Ed & Kim*

**Ed & Kim Bergman** - March 29, 2024 at 02:40 PM