



## John Irwin

July 27, 1944 - January 18, 2022

John C. Irwin, 77, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at Legends at Capitol Ridge.

John was born July 27, 1944, in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of John and Jessie Kiser Irwin.

John and his wife, Bonnie Hylton, were married January 28, 1967. She survives. Other survivors include son, John R. and wife, Nancy Irwin, and their children, Elise and Alex Irwin, Fort Myers, Florida; son, Terrance D. and wife, Gretchen Irwin, and their children, Zachary and William Irwin, Andover, Kansas; and his sister, Diane Kelly, Lodi California.

John graduated from Topeka High School in 1962 and then went on to graduate from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Nuclear Engineering. He entered the Army through ROTC. During his year in Vietnam, 1969-1970, John achieved the rank of Captain as a Huey helicopter pilot. After three years with the Army, he went to work for the Department of Health and Environment in Topeka. During that time, he received his master's degree in Science and Industrial Safety and Health from Central Missouri State University. He also earned a master's degree from Kansas University in Public Administration. John was a certified industrial Hygienist and a Certified Safety Professional. He served 20 years in the Air National Guard, retiring as

Lieutenant Colonel. John also worked with Westar in Topeka for five years.

Those close to John enjoyed a funny, goofy side of him beyond his professional and scholarly demeanor. He could always make his wife laugh, and she loved him for that. He was a dedicated family man who loved his family. He worked very hard and would do anything for them. John loved his grandchildren and found much joy in their laughter. They sure enjoyed his little quirks. In addition to visiting their grandchildren, John and Bonnie were very fortunate to travel the world together. They loved going on cruises, especially with their dear friends.

The rosary will be prayed at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 23, with visitation following until 4 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, January 24, at 10 a.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Masks are required.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to Midland Hospice Care, and sent in care of the funeral home.

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

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JAN **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

JAN **23**. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th St  
Topeka, KS 66614-1973  
(785) 273-0710

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Irwin*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *John and I became friends when we were 8 years old and continued for all of our lives, including when his Dad, Jack , took us to Boy Scout camp , and 50 years later when we went on a Caribbean Cruise with John and Bonnie.*

*john was intelligent , witty, and had a great sense of humor and was always a delight to be around .*

*Bonnie , my deepest sympathy to you and all of the family. I'm sure he will be missed by all of his family and friends for being the unique , special , decent , and gracious person that he was all of his life.*

*Gordon T. Garrett  
Overland Park, Kansas*

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**Gordon T. Garrett** - January 22, 2022 at 06:24 PM



“ *Bonnie...Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.*

*You and John always complemented each other. Enjoyed knowing you both and especially have fond memories of the poker parties we had at our house on Friday evenings. Take care Bonnie and thank you for sharing John with us. Penny & Gary Miller, Henderson, Nevada.*

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**Penny Miller** - January 22, 2022 at 04:25 PM

FS

“ Bonnie, I am so sorry. My thoughts and prayers are with you, and your family, at this time. I know that you have many happy memories of him, and that does mean a lot. I have good memories of the time that the Department got together.

*Freda Saiger*

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**Freda Saiger** - January 22, 2022 at 03:07 PM

TN

“ I am so sad to hear that John is no longer with us. He was the Bureau Director when I worked at KDHE out at Forbes (1998). Nicest guy ever. You have my deepest sympathy. This is a huge loss to everybody that knew him. RIP John ~

*Tara Merkel Nicholas*

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**Tara Nicholas** - January 22, 2022 at 09:31 AM

DH

“ So sorry Bonnie. Your place has never been the same since you moved away. Miss you both.

*Don Hylton*

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**Don Hylton** - January 21, 2022 at 10:24 PM

BK

“ Bonnie & Family,  
My heart goes out to all of you for the loss of your husband, father, and grandfather. Our love to you all.

*Bonnie & Kathy Keim*

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**Bonnie Keim** - January 21, 2022 at 01:21 PM

KV

“ *Bonnie and family,  
I want to offer my condolences for the loss of John in your lives. It is very difficult dealing with Alzheimer’s and knowing how it affects your loved one. Remember all the good times you shared and my God bless you all.  
Kay Vondemkamp*

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**kay vondemkamp** - January 21, 2022 at 10:46 AM

BF

“ *Brenda Bryant & Family purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of John Irwin.*



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**Brenda Bryant & Family** - January 21, 2022 at 04:08 AM

TB

“ *Thank-you Bonnie for sharing John with us at Westar, he made all of us better in many ways. I'll always remember his infectious and unique personality, a truly great guy. One of my favorites.*

*May there be strength, peace and many fond memories for you and your family.*

*Tom Brown*

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**Tom Brown** - January 21, 2022 at 12:23 AM

LJ

“ Love, Angie, Paul, Ryan, Brendan & Jaden purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of John Irwin.



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**Love, Angie, Paul, Ryan, Brendan & Jaden** - January 20, 2022  
at 09:17 PM

JO

“ John and I were very close friends during our high school years. Going and band trips and sneaking a drink or two, making home brew in John's parents basement on Topeka Blvd. Double dating for KSU's 1962 home coming. Driving to Manhattan to rescue one of my friends whose care had let him down. Making an illegally fast time to pick up Diane while John was at the hospital caring for their father. After John went to work for Westar we were lucky enough to run into each other on numerous occasions in down town Topeka.

*John, you are greatly missed.*

*Bonnie, my thoughts and prayers are with your and your entire family.*

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**John Oliver** - January 20, 2022 at 04:54 PM

BE

“ Bonnie, Sherri and I were heartbroken to hear of the passing of John. We still talk about our trip to downtown Old Tucson trying to find the air dried steak that John wanted. We found it and I think we all decided it definitely wasn't worth the effort. But we did have fun! John was a great boss and a great friend who always made our days better. He will be missed. We will be praying for you and your family and please know that you both hold special places in our hearts. Bill and Sherri Eastman

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**Bill Eastman** - January 20, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Irwin.



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January 20, 2022 at 04:34 PM

SP

“ John was a good man. He was one of my favorite and most respected co-workers.

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**Steve Paige** - January 20, 2022 at 04:13 PM



“ I first met John the fall of 1962 at K-State when we were both taking Calculus classes together. Quickly I learned how brilliant he was and admired his academic skills. We both served in Vietnam in the Delta in 1969 and only later did I learn that he was flying support Hueys for our guys on the ground. John always had a captivating smile and people always gravitated toward him. He was a special person!

Everett Thompson  
785-640-1951

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Everett Thompson - January 20, 2022 at 04:01 PM

BF

“ Bob & Jeanne (Hylton) Lucas & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of John Irwin.



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Bob & Jeanne (Hylton) Lucas & Family - January 20, 2022 at 11:06 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Irwin.



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January 19, 2022 at 11:06 PM

BH

“ *My sincerest condolences. I served with John in the Air Guard, where I learned what it meant to be an officer. Always kind. Always compassionate. Always patient. John was a a example we all aspire to live up to.*

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**Bill Hefner** - January 19, 2022 at 10:20 PM

KB

“ *Kent and I are very saddened for the loss of John. He was a great guy who was always smiling! Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Bonnie, the boys, and their families.*



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**Kent Bachmann** - January 19, 2022 at 08:39 PM

TH

“ *Thomas & Tiffany Hochard purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John Irwin.*



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**Thomas & Tiffany Hochard** - January 19, 2022 at 08:15 PM