



## Joseph Cronin

November 2, 1946 - June 25, 2022

Joseph “Joe” Edwin Cronin passed away on June 25, 2022, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Wichita, Kansas on November 2, 1946, to Joseph and Anna Olson Cronin. Joe had fond memories of assisting his father and mother with errands at their Skelly gas station in Wichita until his father’s death in 1959. He enjoyed spending time on the Cronin family farm in Burlington, Kansas, and with his Olson cousins in Oberlin, Kansas. A loving son, he often visited his mother and assisted her until she passed in 2001. His father’s sister, Aunt Bertha Cronin, also played a large role in his life.

Joe graduated from Chaplain Kapaun Memorial High School in Wichita in 1964, received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Wichita State University in 1970, and a Masters in Environmental Engineering from the University of Kansas in 1981.

Joe worked as an engineer for the state of Kansas for 42 years, most of that time being spent with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He worked at KDHE for many years as the Unit Chief for Solid Waste Processing and Planning, retiring in 2016. Due to his long tenure with KDHE, an unofficial office policy was “when in doubt, ask Joe.”

Joe was dedicated to his family and always “on-call” to help when needed, including with tasks such as building a treehouse with his sons for his grandkids, cleaning up debris from storm damage, seeding lawns, assistance with other types of home improvement projects, and watching his grandkids. He also frequently attended sporting events and recitals for his kids and grandkids.

Joe became an avid runner later in life and ran many half-marathon, 10k, and 5k races. One highlight is a second-place finish in his age group at the Key West half-marathon in 2017, a race ran with his sons to celebrate his 70th birthday. He also enjoyed gardening, reading, tailgating at KU football games, watching KU and Wichita State basketball games, and, in line with his life’s work, reducing, reusing, and recycling all types of household waste streams.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife Linda Olberding Cronin, to whom he was married from 1976 until her death in 1990, and his parents.

Joe married Mary Ellen Shaughnessy Cronin on October 25, 1991, and she survives of the home. He is also survived by two sons, David Cronin (Alex Levine) of Lake Quivira, Kansas, and James Cronin (Katherine Lamb) of Leawood, Kansas; two step-sons, Michael Grogan (Geneva Phillips) of Lenexa, Kansas, and David Grogan of Kansas City, Missouri; and grandchildren, Charles and Jane Cronin and Brenna and Erin Grogan.

Visitation will be 5 p.m. Thursday, June 30, 2022, at Christ the King Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th Street, Topeka KS 66614, where Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka KS 66604. Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **30**. 5:00 PM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **30**. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Cronin*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Sincere condolences to Joes family. I had the pleasure of knowing him through KDHE. Always smiling- a friend to all. Kris*

**kris hicks** - July 01, 2022 at 04:55 PM



“ *Derek, Julie, Marty, Eddie Shemezis purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Joseph Cronin.*



**Derek, Julie, Marty, Eddie Shemezis** - June 29, 2022 at 09:16 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Joseph Cronin.*



June 28, 2022 at 11:24 PM

JB

“ My condolences for the family of Joe Cronin. He was a great man, usually saw him at KDHE Curtis Building and serving at Christ the King Catholic Church during Holy Mass.

Josephine Boac - June 28, 2022 at 03:44 PM

AC

“ My deepest condolences to Joe's family, friends, and colleagues. I went to high school with his boys, and I observed that he was excellent to them as a father. A great man, a great dad, and a great engineer. -Aaron Carpenter

Aaron Carpenter - June 28, 2022 at 03:32 PM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Joseph Cronin.



June 28, 2022 at 01:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Cronin.



June 28, 2022 at 10:13 AM

BB

“ Always enjoyed working with Joe from 1993 until his retirement. we had a couple trips to Porubsky's. we reaped a lot of benefit from Joe's knowledge and enjoyed his witty sense of humor and his jello.  
Brian Busby

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**Brian Busby** - June 27, 2022 at 10:29 AM