



## Kenneth Gorman

April 2, 1949 - October 10, 2021

Kenneth Wayne Gorman, 72, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Sunday, October 10, 2021.

Ken was born April 2, 1949, in Fort Scott, Kansas, the son of Thomas and AnnaBelle Hall Gorman. He graduated from St. Benedict's College (Benedictine College) in 1971. Kenneth dedicated nearly 30 years to the Topeka Police Department, retiring in 1999. Ken spent nearly two decades as a car salesman in Topeka at Doug Richert after retiring from the Topeka Police Department. He then went on to work as a Security Guard at Core First Bank and Trust. He loved to travel, working in his yard, fishing, Chief's football, and KU basketball amongst many other things.

Ken is survived by his daughter, Mandy Gorman; grandson, Isaiah Bonjour; sister, Lois Sherman (Steve); brothers, David (Patty), Kevin (Lisa), Phillip (Julie), Mark (Marla); and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, Paul and Tommy.

Ken was a widely recognized and respected officer in his community as well as on a national level. His respectful, friendly manner enabled him to build bridges and strong bonds at all levels of his work. His compassionate work was recognized in the naming of the "Ken Gorman Humanitarian" award, for providing much needed assistance to families of fallen officers. Ken's most

recent service was to the Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial Advisory Committee.

Ken also served his brothers in blue on a city, state, and national level as a representative to the National Fraternal Order of Police for decades. He was always a voice of reason, honesty, respect, and compassion. These traits served him well throughout his career and his life of "retirement". Ken always spoke so highly of each member with whom he served. Your friendship was his greatest and highest reward. Ken would want each of you to know how much he appreciated the many years of friendship you shared together. His passing leaves a massive chasm, and the example to follow to help fill it as he claims his well-deserved heavenly reward. No one would disagree that Ken was the "Best" friend ever!

Ken's daughter, Mandy, and his grandson, Isaiah, were his pride and joy. They shared an unbreakable bond of love and care for each other. There won't be a day go by that the light of that "love" won't shine through to make each day a little better! Every day experiences filled Ken's life. Many of the best days were experiencing Isaiah's athletic successes. Isaiah was a talented basketball player and Ken enjoyed every practice and game they shared together. Isaiah's teammates and friends became fast and long-lasting friends of Ken, he was known to them simply as "Papa". Mandy and Isaiah will continue to carry these loving shared experiences with their father/papa every day of their lives.

The family thanks you for all the kindness you have shared and continue to share with us. We are most appreciative. Our hearts are broken but we thank you for helping us mend them.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, October 23rd, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614,

where memorial service will start at 12 p.m.

Memorial service will be live streamed on the funeral home Facebook Page

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation and sent in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **23**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 12:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Gorman



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - October 22, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Kenneth Gorman



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - October 13, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ Kenneth Gorman

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

DP

“ I wish I had known Ken, but I do know, and can tell from all I have heard and read, that everyone who did know him loved him. I also know he loved you, Mandy and Isaiah, and my heart goes out to you as you move forward in this new life without your beloved dad and grandpa in it. I hope your memories and the love you always felt from him can help get you through, and that you lean on your friends whenever you need to. Sending love and sympathy to you and all who loved him.

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**Dee Poe** - October 22, 2021 at 10:43 PM

JH

Ken sold me my 1st new car at Pontiac & I felt his honesty as he helped me decide on a good reliable car.  
When I had an issue shortly after the warranty expired, I sought his advice & help & honest Ken helped me get the help I needed without paying a huge amt. of money.  
I am not sure I have ever or will ever meet such an honest car salesman & it broke my heart when I read about him being attacked after going for a "supposedly" test drive with an evil person.  
I checked up on him several times before accidentally seeing him at the bank. He was such a gentleman & that was unfortunately the last chat we had! 🥺🙏🙏

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**Julie Hoppas** - October 23, 2021 at 09:29 PM

FB

“ It was a pleasure to serve our community with Ken in our Topeka South Rotary club. Ken helped us with several projects, especially our Pumpkin Run fundraiser. I considered Ken a friend and those in our club who knew him will miss him dearly. My condolences go out to his family during this most difficult time.

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**Faron E Barr** - October 20, 2021 at 03:29 PM

TB

“ I worked with Ken in IA before I made Lt. & transferred to Patrol. He was a good police officer & a good man to know & work with. Sorry I didn't get to work with him longer. I know his family is proud of him & they should be.

*T. L. Bird*

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**Terrance Lee Bird** - October 19, 2021 at 02:36 PM

FG

“ To the Family...rest assured Ken will be missed greatly. To his friends and 'Blue Family' we all have our Ken memories. Each one is special. He was a servant of our City and the Brotherhood he loved. His service to both is well documented. A true Ambassador to the Profession.

*His "calm in the eye of the storm" should be bottled and handed to every Rookie in the Academy, Dispatcher and other First Responders.*

*The Good Lord needed him and yet again, Ken answered the call. Rest in Peace Ken....you will be missed.*

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**Frank & Deana Gregg** - October 18, 2021 at 11:51 AM

LW

“ Ken and I were in the same "rookie" class back in 72"? or so. We became good friends and that remained through out our life time. I spent many years traveling with Ken to various venues during his National FOP leadership. We had breakfast about 3 weeks ago and everything seemed to be fine and now he is gone. Love you brother. Larry William

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**Larry A William** - October 14, 2021 at 09:12 PM

PH

“ To Mandy and Isaiah,  
I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. Ken was the nicest man a person could meet. He would help anyone that he could. He will be sorely missed by all and I cannot imagine your grief. I know the 2 people he cared for more than anything else on this Earth are you two. As painful and difficult as these upcoming days/weeks/months will be, I hope you find healing knowing he is walking beside you, watching over you, smiling with you. Sending you strength and healing.  
With love,  
Aaron, Piper, Zo, and Pop

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**Piper Hower** - October 14, 2021 at 03:11 PM

KB

“ Ken was a very good friend of mine, we worked together at Topeka Police and as a Security Guard at CoreFrist. Ken and I attended past President Richard Boyd's funeral together, Ken drove down allowing me to be a passenger. Ken spoke about his grandson and daughter Mandy on the way down and back. Ken was extremely proud of both and was planning a vacation to some "beach" with Mandy and his grandson and friends of his grandson. Ken was a strong FOP supporter, worker, and was always there to help younger members with what ever they needed and guided them along. As a Past National Trustee from Kansas, Ken was a great leader and represented Kansas very well. Ken will not be forgotten and Mandy does not need to worry, Ken's friends will always be there for her and her son. God Bless you all! K. C. Blodgett

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**KC Blodgett** - October 14, 2021 at 09:30 AM

BM

“ I met Ken in the early ‘80’s. He was a Topeka Police Officer. I was a reporter for WIBW TV. Despite the difference in career paths, we quickly became friends and collaborators. Maybe it was because we were each kind of strong-willed Irish guys who were dedicated to doing the best we could, not just in our chosen professions, but for the greater good of the community we lived in. From a fundraiser for the youngest victims of crime when the new Shawnee County jail was about to open, to many years working on the Kansas Law Enforcement Officer’s Memorial, I like to think that we proved that any of us can achieve far more working together than we can independently.

Ken consistently demonstrated his commitment to “What can I do to help?” When I told him of a serious health challenge I faced 15 years ago, that was his very first question. When I told him I didn’t really have any idea what he could do, he asked about mowing our yard while I was laid up. Keeping others in our thoughts was all well and good, but mowing the lawn kept the house looking good.

And as strange as it seems, every time we bought a car from him I was convinced that he was doing everything he could to help us. I miss my friend. But I know I am a better person, just as our community is a better place to live, because of Ken.

*Bill Miskell*

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**Bill Miskell** - October 13, 2021 at 06:43 PM

TG

“ *The Kenny Gorman we all knew...*

*New on the street, probably night four or five and on crime scene under Topeka Boulevard Bridge. SGT Gorman says walk with me Tom. Up the stairs we go to access the pedestrian walkway on the bridge. We pause there for a second, Ken takes the toothpick out of his mouth and says, Tom, what do you see? While I'm fumbling for an answer, Ken shines his flashlight at an angle on the sidewalk and there, foot prints from the crime scene appear. Ken takes off walking south across the bridge with myself in-tow. We walk right into this old bar that was located on the south end of the bridge, oak night stick in his ring, flashlight in his hand and that toothpick in his mouth! Without hesitation, Ken walks right past everyone and into the bathroom. What do you see here Tom? Before I can answer, Ken walks out the door and approaches a guy at the bar. With that toothpick still in his mouth he tells the guy, "show me the bottom of your shoes". Guy lifts up a shoe and shows it to Ken who then tells me to handcuff the guy. In the time it took Kenny Gorman to walk me across that bridge and into that bar, he solved a homicide.*

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**TG** - October 13, 2021 at 09:59 AM

RM

“ *Ken was one of my Sergeants on the P.D. when we worked in Patrol Division on the east side of Topeka in the 1980's. A great supervisor and a great friend. My daughter bought her first car from him when he was a car salesman. I am saddened by his passing and honored that I had the privilege of knowing him and working with him. My sincere condolences to his family and friends...*

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**Ricky Mills** - October 12, 2021 at 07:03 PM

DZ

“ I met Ken through the Kansas Fraternal Order of Police. He was a great man and leader. After retiring he continued to mentor young officers and board members in police labor issues. He worked tirelessly to improve working conditions, equipment, and pay for police officers across the country. He will be missed. Rest in peace brother, we will take it from here.

*Dave Zickel  
Kansas State Trustee Chairman  
Overland Park Fraternal Order of Police*

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**David Zickel** - October 12, 2021 at 05:41 PM

RW

“ Ken was my Sgt. for many years! I'm sure I gave him ulcers, lol. He was a great Sgt. and taught me so much about how to deal with people. However more important was the fact that he was a good man with a big heart both on & off duty. A lot of officers struggled in dealing with or understand people while working North Topeka. Not Ken however, he had the ability to handle all types no matter the situation. He would let us zone officers plan & execute 3rd shift surveillance during high crime business burglary's and he would join in to assist and loved getting the bad guy as much as we did! The early days of our PD softball team when Ken played was so much fun. His love for ALL law enforcement officers & departments was obvious to anyone that knew him. He will be greatly missed. RIP Sir, you deserve it.

*Sgt. Woody  
'80-'09*

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**Russ Whitehead** - October 12, 2021 at 03:32 PM



“ Ken was a very good & dear friend. I was first elected as Ohio National Trustee at the 1989 National Conference in Oklahoma City. My first board meeting was the Post-Conference Board meeting in OKC. Then Chairman of Trustees welcomed me to the Board and sat me down next to Ken Gorman stating "Just keep your mouth shut until I say its OK to speak". (Mr. Atnip always had choice words for new trustees) Ken just looked at me and said "Welcome to the club of Atnip's adopted Trustees" . That obviously broke the ice. Ken & I hit it off from that first meeting.

*Hard to believe he is no longer with us. He was a staunch supporter of LEO's no matter where they worked. It was a Honor to serve with him on the National Board for eight years. He has been a good friend for a long time and we usually had phone conversations every 5-6 weeks. I will miss Ken, he was my Brother and we shared the same passion for our fellow officers. I will miss those conversations on the phone.*

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**Mike Tenore** - October 12, 2021 at 02:14 PM

ST

“ Kenny was one of the best sergeants I worked for. When I started on the street as a rookie, he was my sergeant and he took care of me and taught me the way police work should be done. He was fair and firm, but he never held a grudge and he was forgiving of stupid rookies. There are so many stories to tell of Kenny and the old oak night stick of his, but inappropriate for here. He spoke the language of the people in north Topeka. He was dedicated to the FOP and to law enforcement at all times. He will be missed!! He was a great mentor to all regardless of age!!

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**Steve Taylor** - October 12, 2021 at 12:26 PM

TG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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Tom Gorman - October 12, 2021 at 11:15 AM

BM

“ Ken and I were in the same rookie class. I worked with him for many years. He was a outstanding officer and good friend. He will be missed.

*Bill McLaughlin*

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bill mclaughlin - October 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM

S(

“ When I began in '83 at TPD, CPT Gorman was a 3rd Shift Patrol SGT. He taught us rookies how to survive on the street. He was fair and firm (that look). He knew my father (from St. Francis ER) and would always ask about him. Not many know, but CPT, played on our TPD SB team and traveled with us to Houston for a National Tourney. There is also a good story about the time he chewed, K-Mac and my ass, after some off duty shenanigans. I will miss CPT Gorman, "Eternal rest grant unto him O LORD and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace"

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SGT John Anguiano (Ret.) - October 11, 2021 at 09:05 PM

LM

“ One of the first to take me under his wing when I became the Chaplain was Ken. (1994) Ken and I spent long periods of time talking about needs of officers and their family and how I could be of help. He was patient, understanding and genuine. After his retirement we remained friends and kept up our personal visits. Ken will be missed by all who knew him.

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**Lee Martin** - October 11, 2021 at 06:08 PM

DH

“ Sincere condolences to Ken’s family. Knew Ken as a truly professional fellow law enforcement officer for many years and later through his work at Doug Reichert.  
David Hornbaker  
Topeka

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**David Hornbaker** - October 11, 2021 at 02:56 PM