



## Larry Hughes

April 24, 1944 - September 1, 2010

Larry Tate Hughes, age 66, of Topeka, KS, passed away Wednesday, September 01, 2010 at Stormont Vail RMC from cardiomyopathy. He was born April 24, 1944 in St. Charles, Missouri, the son of John H. and Edith Hughes. Larry was the third of four children and the only boy. Throughout his childhood the family moved around a lot and he never lived far from railroad tracks, as his father moved up the ranks at the MKT (KATY) Railroad. They moved to Parsons, KS before his 5th grade year. Parsons would prove pivotal in Larry's life for many reasons, but most significantly would be his love of athletics and Susan Johnson. When he wasn't involved in some sort of mischief Larry excelled at golf, basketball and football. In his senior year of 1962 he was honored by playing in the All-American game at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas. He attended Washburn University in Topeka and graduated with a B.B.A. in 1966 and his J.D. from Washburn Law in 1969. Larry learned the value of hard work at an early age. He worked all of his life from an early paper route to working his way through college on the late shift at the Goodyear Tire plant. Fresh out of law school Larry worked for a few firms in Topeka, but struck out on his own for the better part of the next 25 years. Ever the entrepreneur, he was involved in a varied group of other enterprises ranging from a rock crushing operation to a Coors distributorship in Burlington, Iowa. He married the love of his life Susan E. Johnson on January 25, 1964 in Parsons, KS. They had their romantic first date attending a Pancake Feed with her father as grade schoolers. From those humble beginnings the next 56

years would be filled with laughter and tears, but mostly family. They welcomed their first child John H. II in 1964 and followed with Jeffrey Harold in 1970. The boys would be the center of his universe, at least until his granddaughters started showing up. The boys were active in all sorts of sports and Larry and Susie were never far behind. It usually consisted of Larry as the coach and Susie as the number one fan. In later years, he enjoyed golfing with Susie, attending granddaughters' events and travelling with the family. Larry leaves behind his loving wife of 46 years, Susan (Johnson) Hughes; a son John Hughes and wife Stephanie of Topeka, KS; and a son Jeff H. Hughes of Topeka, KS. He also had three granddaughters he adored: Taylor Hughes, Talisa Hughes and Tateum Hughes of Topeka, KS. He was preceded in death by his father, John H. and a sister, Sandra Lenati. Survivors also include his mother, Edith Hughes, Gladstone, MO; mother-in-law, Dorris Johnson, Topeka, KS; sister, Debbie Hughes, Gladstone, MO; sister, Patricia and her husband Bill Knarr Austin, TX and a brother-in law, H. Kemper Johnson, New York, NY. Memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Friday, September 3, 2010, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd. Topeka KS 66614. Mr. Hughes was cremated. Private inurnment will be at a later date. Memorial contributions are suggested to Cotton-O'Neil Heart Center, sent in care of the funeral home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Larry Hughes*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Susie, John, and Jeff,*

*So sorry to hear of Larry's passing. I have great memories of him during the days of basketball at ESU. His humor, smile and laughter were a trademark. He was a fun loving man! Our prayers are with you.*

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**Dennis and Deb Tenpenny** - September 11, 2010 at 09:56 AM

JE

“ *Susie and Family - I was so sorry to learn of Larry's untimely death and to learn of it too late to attend his service. I had some abdominal surgery on 8/16 and had to stay in the hospital longer than expected to get my very old digestive system working again. Just got home last Thursday and just got the obituary from my mother today.*

*So please forgive my tardiness in sharing with you my special feelings for Larry. I often think the movie "Stand By Me" was about Larry and me and our great adventure of growing up together. Larry was always a very true friend and got me through some tough times with his understanding and loyalty. (It could be said e got me in trouble a couple of times, but that was really probably Jack's fault.) We shared a childhood and youth that was a great adventure. Wouldn't trade a minute of it and love to remember those times.*

*I regret we drifted apart as time passed. The last time we talked was when we shared a work comp case here in KC. Had time for a drink after a deposition and caught up about his pride in his sons and his devotion to you. Even though we hadn't been in touch recently, I am saddened by his passing and miss him.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you, your sons and granddaughters. Please give my best to Doris as well.*

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**Jeff Ellis** - September 09, 2010 at 09:19 PM

DN

“ Suzie,

*Carol and I wish to extend our heartfelt condolences. We always hoped we'd have at least one more great meal with you both at Marcelo's. I guess we'll have to settle for offering up a toast to a man who lived life to the fullest and one who we are proud to have called our friend. That he will be missed goes without saying.*

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**Dennis & Carol Nickoloff** - September 08, 2010 at 09:17 PM

MF

“ We are sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Mr Hughes that I will always cherish.

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**Mark Unrein and family** - September 05, 2010 at 08:02 PM

JC

“ Dear Susie,

*While it's been many years, I still have many fond memories of Parsons friends, classmates, experiences. I remember you & Larry well, your parents, too, and I am so very sorry to hear of Larry's passing, way too young, and the loss you and your family feel. Please know you are remembered by many during this time and my sympathy extends to all of you.*

*Fondly,  
Jill*

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**Jill Copeland** - September 05, 2010 at 08:54 AM

JP

“ Dear Susie, John, Jeff, as well as all your dear immediate family members. I am very sorry to hear of the recent loss of your husband and father. I understand your loss, as my father, an extended part of your family, also died recently. My heart is with you at this time but you have a wonderful, loving family to be near you now and in the future.

Sincerely Yours;  
Janet Paduh, San Antonio, Texas

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**Janet Paduh** - September 04, 2010 at 10:18 AM

TC

“ We are very saddened by the news. It has been years since we have been to Topeka, however I always remember the great times "out at the Hughes." Tennis, fishing, occasional beer etc. Always fun to be around, always open and inviting. Great person, great family.

Our Condolences,  
  
Powel & Colleen Crosley

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**The Crosley's** - September 03, 2010 at 04:43 PM

DR

“ Larry was such a special person, and always a pleasure to be with. We are grateful he was able to enjoy his grandchildren, and we know you have many happy memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God grant you peace.

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**Dean & Sharen Rothlisberger** - September 03, 2010 at 02:36 PM

BP

“ *Mrs. Hughes, John, and Jeff,*

*I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Hughes was a great and honorable man. I will never forget his intensity and competitiveness, nor his sense of humor and respect for opponents. His impact on athletics in Topeka will forever be remembered. Please know that the Pierce family is thinking of you in these difficult times.*

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**BLAKE PIERCE** - September 03, 2010 at 02:34 PM

JH

“ *Dear Hughes Family,*

*I was sorry to hear of Larry's passing. As I'm sure you recall, he coached Jeff's summer high school basketball team that Ty B. & I drove up from Emporia to be a part of. I have good memories of him (and all of you) & his good nature.*

*Best wishes to you all, my thoughts & prayers are with you.*

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**Jim Hanna** - September 03, 2010 at 01:14 PM

MZ

“ *Susie, John, and Jeff:*

*Very sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He was an exceptional man, and I never will forget playing basketball for him in grade school and his passion for sports. I know he was a great father and husband. You are all in our prayers.*

*Deepest regrets,*

*Mike Zwiener and Family.*

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**Mike Zwiener** - September 03, 2010 at 12:14 PM

RB

“ Suzie, I am so sorry for your loss. Larry was a very good friend of mine and stayed in touch thru the years. I know you and your family will miss him dearly. We will keep you in our prayers. Tell your mom hey for me and when in Parsons please come by.  
Speaking of sports, I remember when he got in trouble with coach Martin and was benched for awhile he came into the game with his helmet on backwards because he was glad to get away from coach.

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**RON BUDDENHAGEN** - September 03, 2010 at 12:12 PM

JR

“ John, Stephanie and girls, We are so sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you and praying for your strength. We hope that you find comfort in the memories that will always be with you. Lots of love,  
The Raine Family

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**Jennifer Raine** - September 03, 2010 at 11:13 AM

MH

“ To the Huges Family.  
We are sorry for your loss, we will remember Larry in our prayers, and you are also in our thought and prayers.  
With Sympathy  
Mark and Bev Henry,(Brads parents)

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**Mark & bev Henry** - September 03, 2010 at 11:10 AM

ND

“ Susie: You and your mother and children and grandchildren are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I have many good memories of the time that we shared in Parsons. Although time and distance have kept us apart, we're still family.

*Nada Wagoner Dobson, Oklahoma City*

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**Nada Wagoner Dobson** - September 03, 2010 at 08:44 AM

JB

“ Larry was a friend, teammate on the Vikings golf team and a neighbor. When my parents moved to Parsons from Coffeyville, we settled in a house in the same block as Larry and his family. I can remember many moments as a younger kid on the block chumming around with Larry and Jack (Crane), who also lived in the neighborhood. Larry was always kind to me and made me feel like one of the guys. It was good that he was in my life at that moment; I had no brothers or sisters. So, in a way, Larry was like my surrogate big brother. Larry will always be in my memories and that is the best legacy one can leave on this earth....family and friends to keep his memory alive.

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**Jim Blanton** - September 03, 2010 at 12:38 AM

LS

“ Jeff, John and Family, my condolences in the loss of your Dad. Many fond memories of the Hughes family and sporting events at Washburn Rural High School. Remember all the good times you had together and take comfort in your memories of him during these difficult days.  
Warm Regards,Linda

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**Linda Hoffelmeyer Schuler** - September 02, 2010 at 09:43 PM

TB

“ I am truly sorry for the loss of Larry. He was a very good man in many ways. Larry was part of my core team and someone that I could always count on. I appreciated his willingness to always listen and teach, and admired his dedication. We spoke nearly every day, I enjoyed our conversations and when I was having a bad day he could always make me laugh. He had a well known reputation and highly respected in our industry. I am extremely proud to have known him. My thought and prayers will always be with your family.

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**Timothy E. Bennett** - September 02, 2010 at 08:51 PM

JG

“ Susie, John and Jeff,  
I am truly sorry for your loss. I have so many wonderful memories of Larry ----coaching BB, trip to Rose Bowl, etc. Also it has been my pleasure in getting to know his family whom he was so very proud of and couldnt quit talking about.  
Time eases the pain but hopefully YOU will remember all the good times that you have shared  
I will remember all of you in my prayers.  
Hold firm the hand of God and He will get you through this difficult time in your lives,.

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**Janice Grattidge** - September 02, 2010 at 07:31 PM

BH

“ Larry was a great man...I will miss him very much. He taught me a lot. He was also someone I could call when I needed to vent. He would always say, "ahhh, that's no problem". He was always in good spirits and very much fun to be around, both at work and when relaxing. May God bless Larry and his family.

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**Bill Hooper** - September 02, 2010 at 05:09 PM

TH

“ The Hughes family, our deepest sympathies are with the entire family on our loss of great husband, father and true friend. We all looked forward to passionately discussing a variety of topics with LT and truly appreciated his candid replies and wit. We'll never forget, but let's all move forward with the wonderful memories that LT created. Our deepest sympathy, The Hansen Family

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**The Hansen's** - September 02, 2010 at 01:08 PM

BB

“ Although I didn't know Larry well, his reputation and commitment to family will always remain. Jeff & family, I'm so sorry, I certainly know the pain of losing a Father. It was a wonderful story of Larry's life in the paper today. Take good care,

*Bob Brennan*

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**Bob Brennan** - September 02, 2010 at 10:30 AM

GE

“ Jeff and family,  
My condolences in the loss of your Dad. His legacy lives on in the great family he leaves behind. May you be comforted by the wonderful memories you all shared.

*Warm Regards,  
Greg Edson*

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**Greg Edson** - September 02, 2010 at 09:56 AM

RA

“ The family does not know us but Larry was well respected throughout our industry for his dedication and hard work. No one will really ever be able to know the total number of lives he touch, or the influenced he had on others just by his reputation alone.

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**RJMW Adjusters** - September 02, 2010 at 09:17 AM

MW

“ Sorry for your loss.

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**Mark Works** - September 02, 2010 at 08:44 AM

KM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I admired Larry as an athlete and for being a warm, funny and compassionate man.

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**Ken Martinez** - September 01, 2010 at 10:07 PM

JW

“ Sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He was in my older brother Bob's class. I remember watching Larry play sports as I was growing up and he was a great athlete and a great guy. He will be missed by all that came in contact with him.

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**Jack Wallace** - September 01, 2010 at 09:25 PM