



## Marion Joseph Craney

May 31, 1926 - June 26, 2016

Marion J. Craney, former director for the Kansas Association for Mental Health, passed away June 26, 2016, in Topeka.

As director of the Topeka-based agency from 1959 to 1971, Marion worked closely with officials of the Kansas Department of Health or Mental Health to facilitate the establishment of more than 30 community mental health centers throughout Kansas. At local meetings they would encourage citizens to become chapters of the Kansas and National Associations of Mental Health, then citizens would in turn ask local commissioners to lev an ad valorem tax to finance local health centers.

Marion was born May 31, 1926, in Indianapolis IN, the son of Flavian Craney and Margaret Lillpop. After education in Indianapolis schools, Marion enlisted in the U.S. Naval Air Corps in December of 1943, during World War II. Marion received preliminary flight training at the University of Notre Dame, then at the University of North Carolina, until the war ended in 1945. Marion returned to the University of Notre Dame, wher4e he graduated from the School of Journalism in 1948. He then joined the Indianapolis Times as a news reporter. Two years later, he was named Secretary to the Indianapolis Mayor, Philip Bayt. With the Mayor's unsuccessful bid for reelection, Marion joined the staff of the American Legion National Headquarters, then the Indiana Association for Mental Health, both in Indianapolis.

In 1949, Marion and Vera Edens, were wed in Indianapolis. Marion moved his family to Topeka in 1959.

In 1971, Marion became the first director of the Missouri Juvenile Officers Association, in Jefferson City MO. Then in 1972, he joined the Missouri Department for Mental Health in Jefferson City. There Marion co-authored the first of many annual National Drug Abuse Prevention Plans for the State of Missouri. He served in various positions in the Missouri Department until his retirement in 2001. In 1976, he had received his master's degree in psychology from Lincoln University.

Marion returned to Topeka where he was employed part-time in the office of The First Apartments in 2001. He also volunteered at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church School for nine years, as a tutor. Three of his grandchildren were his pupils. Other pupils soon joined them in calling him "grandpa." Soon teachers and pupils' parents were doing the same.

Marion enjoyed singing in choirs, including Notre Dame Glee Club and the church choir while living in Indianapolis, Jefferson City and Topeka. He was an avid bridge player. With his son, Steve Craney, he researched genealogy, especially for Craney, Lillpop and other ancestors.

Survivors include sons, Steve Craney and Kevin Craney (Deborah); daughters, Mary Kraft (Ralph), Tina Neff (Brad) and Martha Monaghan (Mike), all of Topeka, and Valerie Wissman (David), Hennessey OK, Ben Craney (Nancy), Tucson AZ and their mother, Vera.

In 1971, Marion and Myra Peter, the daughter of Wayne and Doris Curry of rural Goodland, were married in Topeka. She survives in Jefferson City, along with daughter, Carrie Peter and granddaughter, Katrina Peter. The son of

Marion and Myra, Kyle Craney of Kansas City MO and granddaughter, Tayler Craney of Cyprus TX also survive.

Surviving grandchildren of Marion and Vera residing in Topeka are John Ingrebetsen, Noah Neff, Caleb, Issac and Jacob Craney and Patrick, Kiley and Brenna Monaghan. Also, Derrick Wissman, Shawnee OK, Dylan Wissman, Tulsa OK, Tim Coonce, Del Ray CA, Micah Neff, Kansas City KS, Chad Maley, Easton KS, Jonah Neff, Richmond VA, Raquel Craney, Kansas City MO; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Marion was preceded in death by a sister, Anna Margaret Payton and a brother, Patrick Craney.

Family will greet friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 SW 17th Street, Topeka, KS 66604.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1 p.m. on Friday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Inurnment will follow at a later date at West Lawn Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Marion's name to Most Pure Heart of Mary Church Choir Fund or to Mary's Choice, sent in care of the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 1. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church  
3601 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 1. 1:00 PM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church  
3601 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Tribute Wall



“ *Marion Joseph Craney*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Thinking of you.*

**Claudia Larkin** - July 03, 2016 at 08:12 PM



*Thank you, Claudia.*

**Tina Neff** - July 04, 2016 at 07:53 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you Vera and your family.*

**Phyllis Goetz** - July 02, 2016 at 07:29 PM



*Thank you . Phyliss*

**Tina Neff** - July 04, 2016 at 07:53 PM



“ *Marion and I were good friends at MO Dept. of Mental Health. We worked together on a number of projects. I have not seen him since he left here. I am praying for him and his family. Mat his soul rest in the peace of Christ.*

*Ed Bode*

**Edward Bode, Jefferson City** - June 30, 2016 at 01:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Marion Joseph Craney.*



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June 30, 2016 at 12:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marion Joseph Craney.*



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June 29, 2016 at 11:25 PM



“ *Marion and I worked together for many years at the Missouri Department of Mental Health. I remember traveling with him to many meetings around the state and no matter where we stopped for lunch he always managed to produce a coupon from his wallet for a discount! We also played golf together for a period of time in the late 1990's. Marion always wanted to play during the discount time on late Sunday afternoon. When he learned that couples got an additional discount he said to me, "Do you think they would let us play as a couple? We could save a few bucks!" To say Marion was conservative with his money would be an understatement! Rest in peace my friend, your passing leaves this world with one less very special person but adds another great guy to heaven.*

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**Gart Pollard** - June 29, 2016 at 09:05 AM

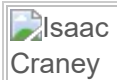


“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Marion Joseph Craney.*



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June 28, 2016 at 06:46 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Tribute Wall*



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**Isaac Craney** - June 28, 2016 at 01:24 PM



“ *John and Joy Wilson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marion Joseph Craney.*



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**John and Joy Wilson** - June 27, 2016 at 08:58 PM

JJ

“ Marion and I were friends for almost 68 years. We began as cub reporters for *The Indianapolis Times* in 1948, he having graduated from the University of Notre Dame and I from Indiana University. He married first, and I was frequently invited to visit him and Vera at their various homes through the years. Stevie was their first born, with other sons and daughters to follow. Sometimes I would baby-sit so Marion and Vera could attend Sunday Mass (which assured me of Sunday dinner!). Eventually, our jobs took us from Indianapolis, but Marion would visit me in Washington, D.C. and later in Florida as our friendship remained unbroken.

*He was a loyal friend, great husband and father, steadfast mental health professional, and true servant of the Lord.*

*Old friend (old bean), we shall meet again.*

*John V. Wilson, Jr.*

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**John V. Wilson, Jr.** - June 27, 2016 at 08:16 PM

DW

*Tina and family, my sincerest sympathy to all of you for your loss. I know it is not an easy thing to lose someone you love, but if you have faith and talk to God it will ease your pain not necessarily according to your timeframe, but in His.*

*Love and prayers  
Debbie Williams*

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**Deborah Williams** - June 29, 2016 at 03:35 PM

TN

*Thanks for the prayers, thoughts and kind words. I believe that it is only our faith in Our Father that get's us through this life. God bless you.  
Tina*

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**Tina Neff** - June 30, 2016 at 11:27 AM