



Mark McGivern

February 27, 1962 - June 6, 2024

Mark James Francis McGivern – loving father, friend, brother, and son – passed away June 6, 2024, in Wichita, Kansas. Mark was born to John and Margie McGivern in Topeka, Kansas, on February 27, 1962, and lived in Topeka most of his life.

The fourth of eleven children, Mark loved his siblings unconditionally, showing them throughout his life, kindness, generosity, loyalty and humor.

Mark attended Most Pure Heart of Mary Grade School and graduated from Hayden High School in 1980. His athletic prowess was evident from his earliest years. He played football and wrestled in the Catholic Youth Organization league while at MPH and later in high school. Mark's skills on the football field at Hayden ultimately earned him a full scholarship to play outside linebacker for Pittsburg State University.

Mark was voted the Gorillas' co-captain his senior year and helped lead the team to the NAIA national championship game in 1982. He also was an excellent recruiter: a pipeline of younger and equally talented McGivern brothers followed him to Pittsburg State and had their own standout careers.

He excelled in the classroom. Mark was an Academic All-American and graduated with a degree in Construction Science in 1985. Following

graduation, Mark and his best friends – Rob Jarvis, Mike Holman and Brent Smothermon – established the PSU Construction Science Alumni Scholarship, which has provided more than a million dollars to students through the intervening years. Mark returned to Topeka after college, worked in his family’s business, and was then accepted into Washburn Law School. He passed the Kansas Bar exam in 1988.

Mark married Mary Eileen Cain on May 25, 1985, in Topeka. The couple moved to Wichita in 1988 when Mark accepted an associate position in Eby Construction’s legal department. He eventually was promoted to associate general counsel. The couple was soon blessed with two remarkable daughters, Ellen in 1991 and Maura in 1993, and the Wichita years proved among the happiest of their lives.

In 1995, the family moved back to Topeka after Mark returned to his family business. A son, Joseph Liam, was born in 1998; Mark solemnly referred to Joe as “The Chosen One.” Mark later went to work for the Kansas Department of Administration, serving as interim secretary and director of facilities and procurement, before finally returning to the law.

Mark and Eileen shared 33 years of marriage. A deep and abiding faith was at the center of his life. He was a devoted and resourceful son-in-law to Dan and Theresa Cain and a rock-solid brother-in-law. Mark had a gift for connecting with children and understood the joy and wonder behind their eyes. He would often hold the collected nieces and nephews spellbound with terrifying and astonishing tales of the mythical Jocko the Giant. He found humor in everything and was a loyal and generous friend.

Mark loved traveling with Maura in his role as volleyball dad and once stormed the court after a 14-year-old championship match. He watched every Chiefs game religiously with Joe and always cheered on the Jayhawks with Ellen.

Family vacations were a much-anticipated event, but Mark left the driving to Eileen. He didn't like big cities and warned one wrong turn could lead to impending doom!

Among his many achievements, Mark had accomplished five-and-a-half years of sobriety at the time of his death. His family could not have been prouder.

Mark is survived by his children, Ellen Elizabeth McGivern, Seattle, WA; Maura Ann Kirby (Matthew), London, England; Joseph Liam McGivern, Fairway, KS; his former wife and constant friend, Eileen Cain, Fairway, KS; his father, John F. McGivern, Topeka; brothers, John, Tim, Greg, BJ, and Ryan McGivern; sisters Lisa Belden and Lynn and Amy McGivern; numerous nephews and nieces; friend Jackie Marr, and many other dear friends. Thank you to his AA community who supported and cheered him on through his recovery. He was preceded in death by his mother, Margie Ann McGivern; his adored big sisters, Toni Schuckman and Terri Gallagher; and his beloved niece, Mia Miyamoto.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Monday, June 10, 2024, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 W. 17th Street, Topeka, KS and will be livestreamed on Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home Facebook page. Visitation and rosary will precede the Mass, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Topeka.

Memorial contributions may be made to the PSU Construction Science Alumni Scholarship Fund, care of the PSU Foundation, 1701 South Broadway Street, Pittsburg, KS 66762 or to Greater Kansas American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Chapter, <https://supporting.afsp.org/campaign/Mark-McGivern-memorial-fund>, or sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Online condolences may be sent to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 10. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Rosary

JUN 10. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mark McGivern



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - June 08, 2024 at 05:20 PM

BF

I always enjoyed visiting and talking with Mark. He was a very good individual and will be missed. Bob fletcher.

Bob fletcher - June 08, 2024 at 08:01 PM

MB

Eileen, Ellen, Maura, Joe, all McGivern's and the Cain family. I am very saddened. I send my love. Many very fond memories of law school days and raising our same-aged kids in Wichita and much more. ❤️

Meg Beck - June 13, 2024 at 12:59 PM

KA

“ Our sympathy and prayers go out to Mark's family. We were very lucky to get to know him. Mark had a very strong faith and shared it with his friends through caring love and laughter. He also wore his faith, rarely being seen without a Crucifix and a religious-themed t-shirt. He always left you with a smile, leaving you richer for it. He will be missed.

Kelly and Mary Lenz

Kelly and - June 13, 2024 at 07:29 PM

KE

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the whole family.
Keith and Lorraine Eggen*

Keith & Lorraine Eggen - June 14, 2024 at 05:05 PM

KE

*Our thoughts and prayers go
out to the whole family*

Keith & Lorraine Eggen - June 14, 2024 at 05:06 PM

LT

“ *My deepest condolences to Eileen and the extended McGivern family. Sending peace and comfort to all. Laura Tuttle, Wichita, KS.*

Laura Tuttle - June 12, 2024 at 04:27 PM

KK

“ *Mark and I came to Pitt with the class of 1980. I remember him as being strong, tough football player. God will have a special place for Mark.
Kris Kehl-Tight End.*

Kris Kehl - June 11, 2024 at 10:11 PM

PP

“ *To all the McGiverns and the McGivern families: Deepest sympathy to all.*

Patrick Pheiffer

Patrick Pheiffer - June 10, 2024 at 01:35 PM



“ Sweet & Savory Snacks Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Mark McGivern.



June 10, 2024 at 10:18 AM



“ RIP Mark, we saw each other sparingly after high school but always maintained a connection and enjoyed a great laugh when we did see each other. Peace to you and all of those you loved.

Phillip Gragson - June 10, 2024 at 09:47 AM



“ To the McGivern family,
I'm so sorry for your loss, Losing a child, father, brother, and friend is so a pain that is unmatched. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. May all your wonderful memories provide a source of peace and the promise that you will see each again.

Kimberly Neel Long - June 09, 2024 at 11:09 PM



“ Rest In Peace Mark. I wish peace and love to your family.

Bernie Reeb - June 09, 2024 at 10:55 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family of my Hayden classmate and friend. Rest in Peace my friend.

Jeff Engelken - June 09, 2024 at 08:37 PM

CB

“ Cynthia B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark McGivern.

Cynthia B. - June 09, 2024 at 03:49 PM

BG

“ To the Mcgivern family my thoughts and prayers are with all of you

Bob Grace - June 09, 2024 at 09:04 AM

AL

“ Ann Triggs Linder planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark McGivern.

Ann Triggs Linder - June 09, 2024 at 07:59 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mark McGivern.



June 09, 2024 at 07:59 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark McGivern.



June 08, 2024 at 09:35 PM

JK

“ Jarvis family. Linda, Brandon, Kelsey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark McGivern.



Jarvis family. Linda, Brandon, Kelsey - June 08, 2024 at 07:18 PM

JP

“ To Jack and our McGivern family friends, Nancy and I send our love and support as we mourn the loss of our friend Mark. His beautiful obituary tells the story of his life of achievement. As State Facilities Director, Mark revolutionized an unfair, unworkable system using his skills as a lawyer with extensive business background. He established a system where State agencies in leased offices and property owners were all treated fairly at significant savings to taxpayers. His friendly, gentle demeanor as a negotiator helped facilitate understanding and cooperation. His honesty and common sense engendered trust among colleagues in his State agency and the citizens it served. We honor and respect Mark for all of his accomplishments and are grateful for the opportunity we had to know Mark and work with him. — Jim Parrish

Jim and Nancy Parrish - June 08, 2024 at 12:29 PM

TM

“ Brother Mark, we loved you. And we already miss you. Rest in peace. Enjoy life ever lasting with Jesus. We will all be reunited some day. Until then enjoy heaven with Mom, Tony, Terri and Mia. Thanks for being my older brother. Love you Mark.

Tim McGivern - June 08, 2024 at 12:13 PM

LZ

“ John, Lisa, Eileen, and the rest of the family, let me say how saddened I was to hear of Mark's passing. He was a great guy with a great heart. I hope that soon your tears of sadness will be replaced with only joyful memories.

Lisa Zeller

Lisa Zeller - June 08, 2024 at 11:49 AM

MM

“ I worked with Mark many years ago. He was a great guy and also friendly and made you feel included in the family. My prayers to the family.



Michelle Miller - June 08, 2024 at 11:45 AM

LB

“ Mark was such a kind man, made all feel welcome and had a wonderful sense of humor. My deepest sincere sympathy and condolences to the McGivern family and friends. May the Lord Jesus Christ provide comfort and peace at this difficult time.

Lana Blankenship - June 08, 2024 at 11:36 AM

TF

“ The DeSalvo Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mark McGivern.



The DeSalvo Family - June 08, 2024 at 11:02 AM

KM

“ To the McGivern family, So very sorry for your loss. May he rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him; may you all find comfort in your memories and faith knowing you will see him again.
Kathy (Gardner) McKee

Kathy McKee - June 08, 2024 at 07:23 AM

KB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mark for several years. He had a wonderful way of making everyone feel heard and valued when tough decisions needed to be made. He deeply loved his family and friends. God broke the mold when he created Mark.

Kim Borchers - June 07, 2024 at 11:16 PM

JB

“ I am so incredibly sorry for ALL of Mark's family at his passing.

While I have not spoken to Mark in many years, he was a wonderful person and those who knew him were blessed by his humor and kindness.

I'm again, just so sorry and my heartfelt condolences.

God Bless you all during this most difficult time.

Janel Brandstoettner - June 07, 2024 at 11:01 PM

TP

I was so saddened to hear of Marks passing . My heart goes out to his father and siblings that I know and love so deeply. May he rest in eternal peace. . Sure will miss his smile

Therese Peterson - June 08, 2024 at 09:18 AM

BF

To the McGivern family we so sorry for your loss.

Bobby Freeman - June 08, 2024 at 11:41 AM

TR

“ *The moment I met Mark his light shined on us all. His smile, laughter brought happiness around us all. Thankful to have met him, will forever remember his smile. RIP MARK* ♡

Tracy - June 07, 2024 at 10:54 PM

RE

“ *I didn't know Mark long. I met him in Sobriety at Renewell. I liked him immediately and enjoyed our short-lived friendship very much. Sad to hear this news. I will miss him.*

Richard Ellis - June 07, 2024 at 09:40 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mark McGivern.*



June 07, 2024 at 09:21 PM

TF

“ *Tim Johnson's Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark McGivern.*

Tim Johnson's Family - June 07, 2024 at 09:21 PM