



Judge Matthew Dowd

July 5, 1939 - May 15, 2018

Judge Matthew Joseph Dowd, Jr., 78, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Tuesday, May 15, 2018, in his home surrounded by family.

Matt was born July 5, 1939, in Oklahoma City, the son of Matthew and Mary Francis Calloway Dowd. He grew up in Kansas City, the eldest of five siblings.

Matt's wife, Judy Hermesch McDaniel, survives of the home. They shared 12 years of marriage; they enjoyed traveling extensively including his beloved Ireland. They also enjoyed cheering on the Jayhawks and attending grandchildren activities.

Grateful to have shared Matt's life are his children Kathy Nibler (Matt), Mike Dowd, Liz Aldrine (Baron), Trish Dowd Kelne (Adam), Cara Schroeder (Mike), Tara Wineinger (Sam), and Ty Bachmann (Jill); Christina Wright (Doug), Jeff McDaniel (Rae Ann), and Lindsay Klemovich (Michael); and his 15 cherished grandchildren to whom he was devoted: Tanner, Baron II, Blake, Brayden, Lucy, Grace, Thomas, Drew, Brady, Jacob, Sophia, Ellie, Cora, Addison and Hudson. He is survived by his brother Kevin Dowd and sisters-in-law, Judy Dowd and Mary Dowd.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Michael Dowd, his sister Mary Beth Dowd and his brother Terry Dowd.

Matt was previously married to Mary Kay Riedel Bachmann Dowd, who passed away in 2004. He was first married to Margaret Fuchs Dowd.

Matt lived life with a love of knowledge, learning and service; he graduated from St. Agnes High School (now Bishop Miege) and earned a degree in history from Rockhurst University. He earned his doctorate from the University of Kansas Law School and later a Masters of Administration of Justice (Wichita State University), and a Masters of Judicial Studies (University of Nevada at Reno). Matt served our country in the US Army and was later commissioned a Judge Advocate General officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserves.

Matt began his career as a criminal defense attorney and later served as Assistant Attorney General (1972-74). He worked in private practice and was elected associate district judge (1976). Among many accomplishments during his 31 years as a judge, Matt took great pride in launching Drug Court of Shawnee County, a diversion program to aid first-time offenders with alternatives to prison or probation. Many lives were positively impacted: at the time of his retirement over 200 had graduated.

Matt's love of learning was matched by his love of laughter; through both he gave of himself in service to numerous community and charitable organizations. He was a member of and lector at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, Knights of Columbus Council No. 4254, the James W. Gibbons Fourth Degree Assembly, volunteer of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Friends of the Topeka ZOO and Sertoma. He demonstrated his dedication to his Irish heritage through the St. Patrick's Day Committee and led the parade with St. Patrick for many years. If not heralding the Irish colors, then Matt would likely be found in Crimson and Blue cheering his beloved Jayhawks.

Matt's family will greet friends from 2:30 to 4:30 Sunday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, where Remembrances will be spoken at 4:30. At 5 p.m. the James W. Gibbons Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus will conduct a Chalice Ceremony followed by a Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at the Church. Burial, with full military honors, will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, and Drug Court, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

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

Remembrances

MAY 20. 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Chalice Ceremony and Rosary

MAY 20. 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY **21**. 10:00 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 Judge Matthew Dowd



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - May 18, 2018 at 04:12 PM



“ Judge Matthew Dowd

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Matt Dowd was the first judge i met when I became a counselor and served the drug court with his leadership. I remember him sharing my suggestions during the drug court and his regular docket. He was transparent and always reachable. I have great respect for his wisdom and sense of humor. I offer my condolences to his wife and family.

AL JABEN - August 09, 2018 at 12:30 AM



“ Julie Schalansky lit a candle in memory of Judge Matthew Dowd



Julie Schalansky - May 21, 2018 at 07:55 PM



“ Judge Dowd believed in me when I couldn't believe in myself. He truly cared for others and made probably the biggest impact on me in a crucial time. I will forever be grateful! I will also miss seeing him and Judy in Red Lobster!

Julie Schalansky - May 21, 2018 at 07:46 PM



“ To Judy and the Dowd Family--We offer you our sincere sympathy, love and prayers during this sad time. May your memories and the promise of Christ's resurrection bring you peace.
Carole and Jake Mertz

Carole Mertz - May 19, 2018 at 09:25 PM



“ Judy, and family, we wanted to share our sincere sympathy and our remembrances of Matt and how special it was to see you both at the KU football games. Matt was an excellent Judge who was respected by his colleagues. Judy, you made his last years extremely enjoyable. We know how much the traveling, the family get together s, and his retirement were special because of you and the whole family. Fondly, Elaine and Howard Schwartz

Elaine Schwartz - May 19, 2018 at 12:21 PM



“ Will miss Matt as we do Mick, Dowd boys spent a lot of time with Matt, Mick & Mary Beth. Our condolences to family and friends.
Walt Dowd

Walter Dowd - May 18, 2018 at 08:19 PM

CS

“ Matt was one of the strong leaders in our STAGS class of '56. He always had a great smile and loved to be part of things. He and Judy have always been active in our class reunions and a vibrant part of the activities. He will be greatly missed. My prayers are with Judy and the family as they adjust to life without this vibrant person. Judy you blessed his life and took wonderful care of him. Thank you.

Colet Crahan Schmidt

Colet Schmidt - May 18, 2018 at 10:47 AM

BT

“ Trish,

You and your family are in my heart and mind. My condolences on the passing of your father.

Bintou Traore - May 18, 2018 at 09:31 AM

CA

“ Trish - keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult period. Caryn Anderson

Caryn Anderson - May 18, 2018 at 08:40 AM

MC

“ R.I.P Matt ...

"May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you at your arrival and lead you to the holy city Jerusalem. May choirs of angels receive you and with Lazarus, once (a) poor (man), may you have eternal rest."

Kathy, Mike, Liz, Trish ... carrying you in my thoughts & prayers.

To all who love Matt ... I hope this poem brings you comfort as it does me.

*****ALL IS WELL*****

Death is nothing at all.

It does not count.

I have only slipped away into the next room.

Everything remains as it was.

The old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.

Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.

Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.

Put no sorrow in your tone.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.

Let it be spoken without effort

Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was.

There is unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner.

Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.

One brief moment and all will be as it was before.

How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting,

when we meet again. All is Well.

(Source: derived from a sermon written by Henry Scott Holland and delivered in St. Paul's (London) on 15 May 1910, at which time the body of King Edward VII was lying in state at Westminster.)

Mary Helen Connelly - May 18, 2018 at 08:35 AM



Virginia
Pine

“ *Trish - prayers for you and your family. So sorry. Love. Virginia Pine*

Virginia Pine - May 18, 2018 at 04:38 AM

BA

“ *My deepest condolences to you and your family Trish. Wishing you all strength and peace of mind. Bob Augelli*

Bob Augelli - May 17, 2018 at 03:04 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Judge Matthew Dowd.*



May 16, 2018 at 05:40 PM

CR

“ *Matt was a great guy! Loved giving him a hard time during training sessions. Loved his sense of humor, discussing KU/KSU sports, Royals. He adored, cherished, and cared about family so much. I know you will all miss him, and pray that you feel God's presence at this most difficult time. God bless*

Cathy Rinner

Cathy Rinner - May 16, 2018 at 11:48 AM

KL

Will miss the good ole days We worked together, did battles over KU and K-State, joked, laughed and proud you were of Pretrial and Court Services Staff. We felt the same Judge! ❤️🙏❤️

Kelly Rae Lee - May 16, 2018 at 06:53 PM