



## Michael C. Murphy

October 15, 1953 - March 23, 2017

Michael Curtis Murphy, 63, Topeka, passed away Thursday, March 23, 2017, at the House at Midland Care, surrounded by his family.

Mike was born October 15, 1953, in Topeka the son of Carl and Essie “Dottie” Dodge Murphy. Mike graduated from Hayden Catholic High School in 1971. In 1975, Mike married the love of his life, Colleen Peppersack in Seneca. They enjoyed 41 wonderful years together. She survives. He worked for the Kansas Department of Education as the director of auditing and retired in June of 2015. Mike earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Washburn University in 2001. He was in charge of the Hayden Catholic High School Wildcats’ official scorebook for the past 15 years and was also Hayden’s clock and scoreboard operator in football for 17 seasons. Mike was one of Hayden’s biggest fans and was always present cheering on his beloved Wildcats. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council No. 2608. Mike was a loving and dedicated husband, father, grandfather and brother. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

Grateful to have shared his life are his wife, Colleen Murphy, of the home; children, Brian Joseph Murphy (Heather Dawn), Portland OR, Brenda Jo Kelsey (Sean), Topeka and Allison Eileen Murphy (Sarah Zamaitis), Independence MO; four grandchildren, Gwendolyn Rose Murphy, Eleanor Faye Murphy, Oliver James Kelsey and Vanessa Anne Kelsey; brothers, Will

Murphy (Rita), Kirbyville TX and James Murphy, Topeka; brother-in-law, Kenley Engel, Arlington TX; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Patricia Josephine Engel and granddaughter, Rebecca Faye Kelsey.

Family will greet friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, with a rosary led by the Knights of Columbus following at 7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Thursday at Mater Dei Assumption Catholic Church.

Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Athletic Department at Hayden Catholic High School, sent in care of the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 29. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Rosary

MAR 29. 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

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MAR **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Assumption Church  
204 SW 8th St  
Topeka, KS 66603

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael C. Murphy*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - March 27, 2017 at 02:24 PM



“ *Michael C. Murphy*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

LO

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mike at USD #475, Geary County for KSDE audits. I always looked forward to him coming to visit for a couple weeks. How often have you heard of someone looking forward to an audit? With Mike it was work but fun too. He had a great sense of humor but then it became a competition when I found out he was a Hayden guy. This JC girl was going to have a "no findings" audit, kind of like a football game between our Blue Jays and his Wildcats. It was really a win-win situation. He was always fair when it came to negotiating what was best for our district without jeopardizing his position representing the State. I was so sorry to hear of his passing. My sympathy to his wife, children and grandchildren. That's a perfect photo of him (above). He had a great smile.

*Lisa Osbourn (retired)  
Junction City, USD 475*

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**Lisa Osbourn** - March 30, 2017 at 01:53 PM

PM

“ Michael did the Counting Kids training at our ESSDACK location in Hutchinson for many years. He touched many in the area of Education. I enjoyed seeing him and visiting on his yearly stop. His passion for sports and students in Kansas will not go unnoticed he will be greatly missed. Great job Michael!

*Pam Misunas  
ESSDACK*

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**Pam Misunas** - March 30, 2017 at 09:30 AM

SZ

“ Mike will forever be remembered for his dedication to the kids of Kansas and the support he provided all districts, through his efforts. I will never forget his infectious smile, sense of humor, and kindheartedness as he helped school personnel understand the intricacies of counting kids. My life was enriched through knowing Mike and his memory will live on in my heart. My deepest sympathies to his family.

*Sharon Zoellner*

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**Sharon Zoellner** - March 29, 2017 at 03:33 PM

JL

“ Murph was a great man and one of those special people that really make the Hayden community a family. His loyalty and dedication to the Wildcats and all of our players, coaches, and fans was truly inspiration. I was very sad to hear of his passing but know his presence and his impact will continue to live on for years to come.

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**Joe Leiker** - March 28, 2017 at 08:41 PM

JM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mike at KSDE for many years. I found him to always be fair, reasonable, helpful, kind and fun to be around. These traits won him the admiration, respect and friendship of KSDE staff and school personnel throughout Kansas. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to know him and send my sincere sympathies to his family. Mike will live on in the hearts and memories of the many people whose lives he touched.

*Jodi Mackey*

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**Jodi Mackey** - March 28, 2017 at 06:24 PM

AT

“ Mike was a special person to all of us at KSDE! His light hearted manner and great work ethic made us all realize how fortunate we were to know and work with him. I feel so blessed to have seen and visited with Mike a few weeks ago. Our deepest sympathies to his family and our joy for the blessings his life gave us all. Andy Tompkins

Andy Tompkins - March 27, 2017 at 08:13 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael C. Murphy .



March 26, 2017 at 08:01 PM

TM

“ I went to high school with Mike. He was a good friend and a great guy. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. RIP Mike. Job well done!

Tim Morrisey - March 26, 2017 at 02:14 PM

TP

“ Colleen, Brian, Brenda and Allison. You have my deepest sympathy. May God hold you in His hands and comfort you in the days ahead.

Terry Plumberg - March 25, 2017 at 07:49 AM

RS

“ *To Mike's Family,  
Murph is one of those Wildcats that make all alumni proud to be part  
of the legacy. His service to Hayden, from the days of Coach Bueltel  
to today, is a tribute to him and to the school. May God speed his  
journey to Heaven and comfort those who will miss him.  
Go Wildcats Go!!*

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**Rick Strecker** - March 24, 2017 at 07:55 AM