



## Paul Urbom

March 28, 1952 - December 23, 2019

Paul Vincent Urbom, 67, Topeka, Kansas, died after a brief battle with cancer on Monday, December 23, 2019, at Stormont-Vail Hospital, where he received excellent and compassionate care by all who attended him.

Born March 28, 1952, in Dodge City, Kansas to Stanley J. and Mary Loyola 'Loy' Urbom, Paul grew up surrounded by his three brothers, one sister and lots of family and friends. He loved playing basketball and baseball as well as trips to Colorado to visit cousins. He graduated from Saint Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City where he played basketball. Paul met Kathleen Ridgway at college and were married May 20, 1973. Paul and Kathleen moved to Topeka in 1974, where they raised their five children.

Paul was a born teacher and coach. He was employed in that capacity at Most Pure Heart of Mary Grade School and then Hayden High School. After teaching, he moved into management at Payless Shoe Source and then Josten's Printing and Publishing until a career change sent him into sales with Feist Yellow Book out of Kansas City, Kansas. Teaching called him once again, and in 2011 he obtained his master's degree in Special Education from Emporia State University and returned to the classroom at Capitol City High School in Topeka from 2011 until his death. As teaching and guiding young people in education and in life were passions of his, he believed each of his students had the potential to learn and grow in academics and in character.

Paul was an active and well-respected deacon of the congregation of the United Church of God in Kansas City, Kansas. He was a summer youth camp leader where he again used his talents as a teacher to share the love of Christ with youth across the region.

Paul's deep love of service was demonstrated through his lifelong commitment to taking action. He volunteered for many years as Area Director of Shawnee County Special Olympics where he thoroughly enjoyed coordinating events as well as meeting and supporting those amazing families. Paul was a referee /umpire in recent years and enjoyed sharing his love of sports in this capacity.

Paul is predeceased by his parents, Stanley and Mary Loyola 'Loy' Urbom, brother Robert James Urbom, father-in-law, John J. Ridgway II, and granddaughter, Maisy Anne Hartmann.

Paul is survived by a large, close, loving family: his wife, Kathleen; children, Holly and Luis Palacio, Olathe KS, Mandy and Kevin Wiltse, Timken KS, Anne and Jake Hartmann, Shawnee KS, Anders and Sidra Urbom, El Portal FL, and Nick Urbom and Barry Greenfield, Los Angeles CA; grandchildren, Anna, Daniel and Michael Palacio, Maitland, Maddie and Macie Wiltse, Dylan, Keira and Marvin Hartmann, and Alanea, Azureene, Andersson and Aerdisen Urbom; brothers, Mike Urbom (Syd), John (Jeannette) Urbom, Jim (Tom Paul) Urbom; sister, Carol (Dave) Kuhns; mother-in-law, Nancy H. Ridgway; beloved brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Visitation will be this Thursday, December 26th, from 5-7 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. The funeral service will be Friday, December 27th, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery, 801 SW Westchester Road,

Topeka.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Paul's memory to United Youth Camps or United Church of God Good Works in c/o the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **26**. 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)

## Funeral Service

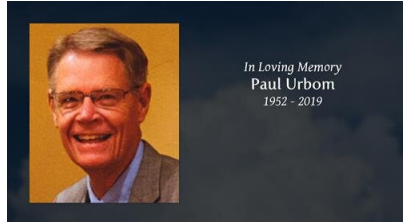
DEC **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul Urbom*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - January 02, 2020 at 12:27 PM



“ *Paul Urbom*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Kathleen & family, We were out of town when Paul died. Paul was so upbeat and energetic. His warmth and caring for the kids he taught was apparent. We remember him fondly. We extend out sympathy and prayers to you.*  
*Jerry & Anna Marie Lammers*

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**Jerry & Anna Marie Lammers** - December 28, 2019 at 12:12 PM

TB

“ Kathleen and family, I was sorry to hear about Paul's passing. He will always be remembered as a very kind and thoughtful person and relished family life. I will always remember being with his family watching Notre Dame football games in the basement of his parents house and being our neighbor on Walker Street. Paul will always be thought of and remembered in a respectful way. Tom Bos Dodge City, Kansas

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**Tom Bos** - December 28, 2019 at 09:59 AM

ES

“ Kathleen and family  
Was saddened by the news of Paul's passing. I remember Paul and you with fond memories from our days at St. Mary of the Plains College. Paul was always upbeat and had a kind heart. Again, know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Betty Chadd Seth  
Los Angeles

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**Elizabeth Chadd Seth** - December 26, 2019 at 05:07 PM

MH

“ Dear Kathleen and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Paul was truly a wonderful man. His kindness and generous spirit were evident in everything he did and all his interactions with people. He was a gentle, calming soul and he always saw the good in situations and provided a reassuring, loving presence. I truly think of Paul as a Prince among men. I am glad to have known him and felt his positive influence in my life. I understand how difficult this loss is for all of you and I grieve with you all. Time will ease the burden and you will begin to heal and recall fond memories with more happiness than sadness. My heart and arms are around you all comforting you. However I can help you, you have only to ask. God bless you all.

Love, Madeleine Hare

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**Madeleine Hare** - December 26, 2019 at 02:10 PM

CM

“ Kathleen and family-We were so sorry to hear of Paul's death and we offer you our prayers and sympathy. May you find comfort in friendship, hope in prayer and peace in love. Memories are the legacy of love.

Carole and Jake Mertz

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**Carole Mertz** - December 26, 2019 at 02:09 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Urbom.



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December 25, 2019 at 09:16 PM

TM

“ *The Ridgway Family of Bill & Marcy purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Paul Urbom.*



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**The Ridgway Family of Bill & Marcy** - December 25, 2019 at 09:04 PM

PB

“ *Kathleen,  
My heart goes out to you and your family during this difficult time. You two were blessed with so many good years together and a beautiful family. Knowing you as I do, I rest assured you are finding some comfort & solace in your faith. May you find comfort too in knowing that many of us care and are keeping you & yours in our thoughts and lifting you in prayer. With Sincere Condolences....  
Pamela Johnson Betts*

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**Pamela Johnson Betts** - December 25, 2019 at 04:42 PM

RS

“ *Dear Kathleen and Children,  
Paul was the consummate educator, a talented coach, and good friend. All of you are a testament to his love, care and compassion. We are so sorry to learn of his passing and send all of our love and prayers.*

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**Rick and Kathy Strecker** - December 25, 2019 at 11:41 AM

DA

“*Mr. Paul Urbom was an amazing educator in Topeka Public Schools at Cap City. His peaceful smile and kindness is something I (and many others) will remember forever. He worked with the most vulnerable children and was a true advocate for youth within the district and beyond. His kind and generous spirit will live on through students and staff. He is described often in the district as a humble, encouraging soul to his students. We were so very fortunate to have him on staff. Personally, I believe Mr. Urbom is a reflection of what walking with Christ looks like. He embodies all that is captured in servant leadership through teaching in such a humble and loving manner. Educators like Mr. Urbom are a gift that teaches us all how to live a life focused on love and kindness. He is an example to all who know him of what strength, character and love look like in a man who impacted thousands through his career. Thank you for sharing him with the TPS family. It was an honor to have Mr. Urbom as part of our team. As we enter a season of renewal, may all in the Urbom family be strengthened by the love and prayers of many who are surrounding you. As I prepare for Christmas Eve church service, the candle I light tonight will be for Mr. Urbom who truly is a beloved educator and a gifted teacher whose impact will forever live on through the countless educators and families he impacted. All in the Urbom family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.*

*In honor of Mr. Paul Urbom, a dedicated educator, a brick with his name on it will be placed at the front of the central office building walkway. Thank you for sharing such an amazing person with us all.*

*Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent  
Topeka Public School District*

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**Dr. Tiffany Anderson** - December 24, 2019 at 06:56 PM

JT

*Well said he was a awesome person. I had the privilege of working with him. He always so postive and up beat. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Jessica Trent** - December 24, 2019 at 08:39 PM

KR

*Dr. Anderson,  
You did a great job of describing Paul. He was a wonderful teacher and a great man. He was on of the most kind individuals that I have ever had the privilege of knowing. All of the staff and students at Capital City will miss Paul more than words can say.*

**Kathie Ross** - December 24, 2019 at 09:22 PM

CM

*Dr. Anderson,  
You obviously visited Paul's classroom many times, as you have captured his character and love of teaching very well. I taught just across the hall from Paul for several years, and he and I also did some basketball officiating together. I am sure that many others are also still shocked by his sudden passing. He will be greatly missed by many! My sincere condolences to Kathleen and all of the Urbom family!*

**Clyde C Mock** - December 25, 2019 at 12:46 AM

AC

*Words can't express my feelings now. I am so shocked as he was such a wonderful and great man. My condolences to you Kathleen and family and if you need anything at all you know how to get ahold of me.*

**April Cibulski** - December 25, 2019 at 08:48 AM

EC

*I am so sorry to hear of Paul's passing ! He was such a great guy. Kathleen and family, know you are in my prayers ..*

**Eileen Cain** - December 25, 2019 at 08:48 AM

SS

*To Kathleen and the whole Urbom family, our deepest condolences. Sheila Stueve and family.*

**Sheila Stueve** - December 25, 2019 at 10:59 AM

BD

*Dearest Kathleen and family,  
The passing of Paul is felt by Bernie and Barb Dunn and Family.  
Our children grew up together and what fun memories.  
Barb taught with Paul at CCS since 2011. I will deeply miss our daily  
good mornings and his support as a friend and educator.  
If in need of anything at all you know how to get ahold of us.  
Daily thoughts and prayers,  
The Dunn Family*

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**Barbara Dunn** - December 25, 2019 at 12:23 PM

PS

*Wonderful Teacher to Work with at Capital City*

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**Phillip Sanders** - December 25, 2019 at 04:32 PM

ER

*Kathleen and children; We're sadden to hear of Paul's passing. He  
truly was one of the kindest human beings that crossed our path during  
our time in Topeka. Please accept our deepest condolences as we'll  
keep you in our prayers. Emil and Billie Ramirez*

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**Emil Ramirez** - December 25, 2019 at 08:13 PM

JP

*Kathleen and family, our sympathy to you and your family. So very  
sorry to hear about Paul. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during  
this difficult time. Joe and Lynn Pensick and family*

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**Joe and Lynn Pensick** - December 26, 2019 at 11:27 AM

LA

*We are extremely saddened to hear about Paul. He will be greatly  
missed by students and staff at Capital City.*

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**Laura Alexander** - December 27, 2019 at 09:16 AM