



Richard T. Waters, Jr.

September 20, 1937 - October 19, 2025

Richard Theodore Waters, Jr., 88, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, October 19, 2025. He was born on September 20, 1937, in Topeka, Kansas, to Richard T. Waters, Sr. and Louise Hazel Robinson.

Richard was a proud graduate of Topeka High School in the Class of 1955. As he studied to become a Court Reporter, Richard worked for Santa Fe Railroad for many years as a detailed box car builder. He went on to break barriers in his profession, becoming the first African American Court Reporter in the State of Kansas. He owned and operated Waters Court Reporting Service, a successful reporting practice for more than 40 years, serving the legal community with dedication, excellence, and integrity.

Richard was preceded in death by his second wife, Barbara Waters, born in Essex, England, with whom he shared 36 years of marriage. His first wife, Karon Lawton also preceded him in death, and he is survived by their children, Sheryl Renae Waters, Richard Waters III, and Kelly Waters; grandchildren, Couron Ray, Howard Bradley III, Ravyn Bradley, Michael Thommen, and Matthew Thommen; and great-grandchildren, Samuel Thommen, Couron Ray, Jr. and Layla Ray.

Richard also had three half-siblings, Gerald Revely, Merrell Revely, and Darrell Revely.

Richard will be lovingly remembered as a devoted family man, a great friend, a trailblazer in his field, and an exceptional businessman whose work ethic and determination inspired all who knew him.

Visitation for RTW will be from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where the funeral service will follow at 12 p.m. Burial will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Richard's family will be open to receiving guests at his home after 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. David's Episcopal Church, Topeka Rescue Mission, or the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be shared online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

OCT **28**. 12:00 PM (CT)

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2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
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Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard T. Waters, Jr.



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - October 28, 2025 at 09:50 AM

MT

“ I worked many years for your Dad, typing up his deposition transcripts. He was always very kind to me, and to my boys. My deepest sympathy to your family.

Marilyn Thomas - November 01, 2025 at 05:22 PM

KT

“ My mom worked for him doing typing many years ago. When he would come over to drop dictation tapes off, he always took time to say hey to my brothers and I and took an interest into what we had going on at the time. He was truly a good dude.

Kevin Thomas - October 30, 2025 at 10:33 AM

RK

“ Ralph, Tresia, Randell & Kimberly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard T. Waters, Jr..

Ralph, Tresia, Randell & Kimberly - October 27, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard T. Waters, Jr..



October 27, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ Mike and Jan Holland planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard T. Waters, Jr..

Mike and Jan Holland - October 27, 2025 at 02:09 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Richard T. Waters, Jr..



October 27, 2025 at 02:09 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss of a wonderful gentleman. I first met Richard years ago at a St. David's lunch. We discovered that he knew my uncle in Kansas City who also was a court reporter. It was always fun to see him at church social gatherings. One time he asked me to help him pick out a bracelet for Barb at Sam's! He wanted to be sure of picking the right one she had seen earlier. What a loving and thoughtful husband he was in every way to her.

Mary Ann Jennings - October 26, 2025 at 04:57 PM

TI

“ We're sorry for your loss. Rich was a great person. Prayers and thoughts are with the family.

Terry and Suzen Iles

Terry Iles - October 24, 2025 at 01:39 PM

KG

“ Ricky, Renee, Kelly and grandchildren. I'm so sorry for the loss of your dad and grandpa. What an upstanding gentleman he was. Sending love.
Aunt Kathy.

Kathy Getto - October 24, 2025 at 10:26 AM

AD

“ I had the pleasure of working for Richard for 8 years as a court reporter fresh out of college. He taught me so much, for which I am very thankful. He was and is still the best boss I have ever had the pleasure of working for. He was great at calming my nerves when I was still learning the ropes. Talented and caring and had a wonderful sense of humor. He will be missed. May your memories comfort your family during your time of sorrow.

Alison Parker Davis - October 23, 2025 at 04:38 PM

K#

My dad spoke of your your excellent work and your assistance to him during your tenure. Thank you Alison! KW

Kelly Waters Daughter #2 - October 23, 2025 at 07:11 PM

FT

Mr. Waters was a fine man and a greart court reporter. FDT

Frank D Taff - October 24, 2025 at 10:18 AM

RR

Our deepest sympathy to all of you. Your Dad was such a great neighbor and wonderful friend and we loved him dearly. We feel Blessed to have known him. Again, our deepest sympathy. Ralph and Anna Razo

Ralph and Anna Razo - October 24, 2025 at 08:17 PM

DK

“ I LOVE you Dad! You will be dearly missed by many! The gate is now open for you to rest well in the Kingdom! KAW



Daughter Kelly - October 23, 2025 at 12:30 PM



Couron and Kelly, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Nikkia Dawnyele - October 23, 2025 at 09:51 PM