



William "Billy" K. Rork

June 22, 1954 - May 31, 2017

William K. "Billy" Rork, 62, Topeka, passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 31, 2017.

Billy was born June 22, 1954, the son of O. Thomas and Teresa Towle Rork. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Washburn University School of Law in 1979. Billy was a renowned attorney practicing since 1980. His specialties were criminal defense and appellate advocacy.

Affectionately known as F. Lee Billy, he was a member of the Kansas Lawyer's Assistance Program, the Kansas Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Shawnee County Bar, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

Billy was an active member of Mater Dei Parish, where he served on the Church Council. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council No. 8059 and the James W. Gibbons Fourth Degree Assembly and served on the Atchison Valley Hope Board.

A lover of the great outdoors, Billy especially looked forward to his yearly hunting trip to Leoti, Kansas. Other hobbies include fishing, boxing, rugby, slow-pitch softball, winning arguments in and out of court, laughing with

friends and breaking the rules. Billy believed in living it up and sharing the wealth, and practiced this in his daily life.

In 1976, Billy and Diane Van Hoozer were united in marriage; she survives.

Other survivors include his daughter, Traci Rork; son, Colin Rork; siblings, Kathy Reding (Larry), Teresa Wignal, Tom Rork (Jackie), Anne Allison (Gary), Sean Rork, Sheila Dunbar (Bob), and Cris Rork.

Family will greet friends from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 9, at Mater Dei Holy Name Church, 1114 SW 10th Street, Topeka KS 66604. At 10:30 a.m. a Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Chalice Ceremony will be conducted followed by a rosary.

Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. at the Church. Interment will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mater Dei Parish or the charity of your choice, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

As Billy used to always say, "In God we trust...all others we cross examine."

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

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

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Chalice Ceremony and Rosary

JUN 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Mass of Resurrection

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Billy" K. Rork



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - June 08, 2017 at 03:07 PM



“ William "Billy" K. Rork

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ I had the pleasure of going to school, playing rugby and handling cases with Billy. He was a true Irishman, tough, funny and always a loyal friend. He saved many lives and was a true giant! God bless and slainte, Billy. Kevin Regan

Kevin Regan - July 23, 2017 at 10:49 PM



When he knew a guy was being railroaded , he jumped in and handed down some solid assistance, pro bono.

I didn't know he died , in 08 he helped me beat a woke bullshit case. I really don't think he died , he is in the flowers and in the wind. Thanks Billy.

Timothy Spidel - February 26, 2024 at 05:48 PM

DW

“ Billy was so kind to friends of The Humpage Family. One time Johnny Humpage and I (both underage at the time) gave Billy money to buy us beer from a liquor store on Gage Street. As we waited in the car for Billy to come out of the liquor store, all of the sudden Johnny's mom Eloise pulls up in the parking space next to us. We get real nervous, and as she walks into the liquor store, Billy walks out with our beer. Eloise and Billy look at each other, and they both share a joyous laugh. It is such a good memory that involved two of my favorite persons.
Rest in Peace, Billy.

David Welsh - June 11, 2017 at 12:39 PM

SS

“ Stanton Smith purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Billy" K. Rork.



Stanton Smith - June 08, 2017 at 04:56 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Billy" K. Rork.



June 07, 2017 at 12:20 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William "Billy" K. Rork.*



June 06, 2017 at 10:27 PM



“ *May Billy rest in peace. He was truly a gift to many people. My prayers are with all his family and friends. He will be missed.*

Ron Reust

Ron Reust - June 06, 2017 at 03:17 PM



“ *I always enjoyed seeing Billy at administrative driver's license hearings. He was always a zealous advocate for his clients, but always a gentleman too. He was an exceptional attorney and a very kind man.*

I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing and I send my condolences to his family.

Dana Fanoele

Dana Fanoele - June 06, 2017 at 09:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Billy" K. Rork.*



June 05, 2017 at 03:02 PM



“ *I remember Bill Rork from grade school at Holy Name during his brief attendance. He was the elusive 'bad boy' that gave the nuns and teachers fits. Even back then I could see that he was very intelligent, just questioned authority. I don't remember many but he stands out in my memory. I hope God's angels wrap their loving arms around the family during this difficult time and that Bill finds peace in Heaven with God.*

Mary Anderson Clinton

mary Anderson Clinton - June 05, 2017 at 09:38 AM

ER

“ Billy was one of a kind. In district court, I had the pleasure of presiding over many cases in which he represented those most vulnerable and those in need of zealous representation. He was unique in that his dedication, determination, and passion took on a tenacious quality that would test the limits of all his adversaries and sometimes the court.

Perhaps even more importantly, Billy confronted and overcame his own vulnerabilities and channeled that same passion and energy into tireless devotion to helping others in need of assistance. His contributions to the Kansas Lawyer's Assistance Program and other addiction support services serve as a shining example of a life dedicated to giving and making a difference. Eric S. Rosen Justice, Kansas Supreme Court.

Eric Rosen - June 04, 2017 at 08:06 PM

"C

“ One Tuesday evening on his way to Auburn for a weekly gathering of the Friends of Bill W., Billy "won" a citation. Said citation/ticket was presented to Billy from the City of Auburn from our local "Keeper of the Peace." His ticket was for neglecting to stop at Auburn's four-way stop sign. Mr. Rork was not a happy man.

"Crazy Gretchen" Cox-Sanders - June 04, 2017 at 04:12 PM

JG

“ Many fond memories of Billy have surfaced since I heard of his passing, all them bring a smile. We both enjoyed fishing, and on one occasion, he shared one of his favorite spots just north of town. We both caught some nice sized bass, and when it was time to head back to town, he taught me how to fillet our harvest, a skill I've found invaluable over the years. He will be sorely missed by many.

JoAnne Grandstaff - June 04, 2017 at 01:25 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Billy" K. Rork.*



June 04, 2017 at 01:17 PM



“ *Kathy & the Rork Families,*

*Kathy, I'm sorry for the loss of your brother,
Billy Rork.*

May God Bless his Soul in Eternal Peace, Amen.

*The Rork Families are in my thoughts & prayers. May the memories
of, Billy, help heal the loss in your hearts. No one can take those
memories from each of you, you will have them for your lifetime.*

*Hayden Class of 67
Marge (Walters) Cooper, Ozawkie,*



Marge Walters Cooper - June 04, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Billy" K. Rork.*



June 04, 2017 at 10:33 AM

HS

“ He would come to mayetta with ted Erickson in the fall to hunt quail and pheasant while eating lunch at the old Huntoon resturant he would steal chicken wings off my plate while he waited for his order to b served to him. He was a pleasure to b around. May his journey to the spirit world b smooth and beautiful.

helen slattery - June 03, 2017 at 10:53 PM

JB

My good pal Billy! We shared many great times together in our late teens. Wild and free-spirited, he really brought his life together at Washburn School of Law and was a real maverick in the best sense of the word. Passion embodied, a true and loyal friend forever. Jim Bartee

Jim Bartee - June 05, 2017 at 04:39 PM