



William F. Sheahan III

August 9, 1945 - January 13, 2026

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Bill always said his obituary should say, “He’s a goner!” However, his family has more to say:

Longtime Topeka architect Bill Sheahan, 80, died peacefully with his family near in Burbank, CA on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. He and his wife Marsha were visiting family in Burbank for the holidays.

Born in Topeka, Kansas August 9, 1945, to William F. Sheahan Jr. and Doris Jean Flynn Sheahan Macferran, Bill attended Most Pure Heart of Mary School and graduated from Topeka High School in 1963. He served in the U.S. Navy as an electronics technician from 1965-1969. Bill graduated from Kansas State University, where he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, with a degree in architecture in 1972, and from Washburn University School of Law in 1975. Bill and Marsha Martin Sheahan, who grew up across the street from one another, were married May 27, 1972, in Topeka and celebrated 53 years of marriage last May.

Bill worked for local professional firms from 1970 to 1976 before establishing William Sheahan Associates, a Topeka architectural services firm that planned

and designed more than three hundred projects. Notable projects included Fleming Place Shopping Center, the Kansas Corporation Commission, Family Services and Guidance Center, Valeo Behavioral Health, and moving the Menninger Chapel/Carole Chapel to the Washburn campus. He retired in 2019.

Sheahan served two terms from 1977 to 1981 as the elected Street Commissioner for the Topeka City Commission. He was a member of the Topeka/Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Topeka Metropolitan Airport Authority, and the Topeka Public Buildings Commission.

Bill loved spending time at Lake Perry fishing and having a beer, canoeing in the Ozarks, or traveling to Red River, NM for family vacations. He enjoyed remodeling rental homes, barbecuing, woodworking, traveling and creating beautiful, fused glass art pieces. He was a Mulvane Art Fair exhibitor and was a guest instructor for art classes at Mater Dei Elementary School.

Bill was preceded in death by his father (1966), his mother (2011), his stepfather W. Sewall Macferran (2015) and his brother Thomas R. Sheahan (2025). He is survived by his wife Marsha and his children Colleen Denise (Scott) Goldblatt and their children Avery and Elizabeth, of Bend, OR; Douglas Martin (Karen) Sheahan and their children Evan and Allyson of Burbank, CA; and Michael William Sheahan of Topeka. He is also survived by his sisters Kathleen (Ted) Clark, Topeka; Barbara (Ron) Hinton, Olympia, WA; Martha (Tom) Cofran, Westminster, CO; and Jennifer (Chris Weekley) Burghart, Topeka; stepbrother Fran Macferran, Palm Springs, CA; and sisters-in-law Janet Sheahan, Montgomery, TX, and Sarah Kay Martin, Tucson, AZ. There also are numerous nieces and nephews, and his beloved dog Dusty.

Bill's Celebration of Life will be Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 11 am at the Kay MacFarland Japanese Gardens at the Topeka Zoo. The family will greet

friends one hour prior to service. Burial with military honors will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Topeka Community Foundation, Tunnel to Towers Foundation (2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10306), or Helping Hands Humane Society, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

3616 SW 6th Street
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kay McFarland Japanese Garden in Gage Park
635 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66606

A Celebration of Life

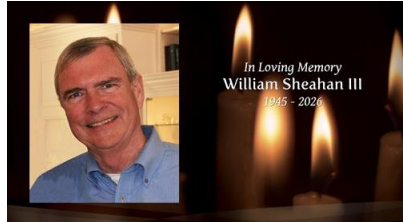
JAN 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kay McFarland Japanese Garden in Gage Park
635 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66606

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William F. Sheahan III



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - January 21 at 03:56 PM



Dear Marsha, Sorry to hear of your loss. My deepest condolences to you and your family.
Suchitra

Suchitra Ram - January 27 at 12:06 PM

TG

“ William was a wonderful person I didn't know William im sending my symphaty to the family of sheahan may William rest in peace 🙏💜
□ terry I glenn

Terry Glenn - February 04 at 05:57 PM

TF

“ The Morford Family purchased the Simply Elegan t Spathiphyllum for the family of William F. Sheahan III.



The Morford Family - January 28 at 05:09 PM

EW

“ Erin, Jacob, and Sidney Williams purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William F. Sheahan III.



Erin, Jacob, and Sidney Williams - January 28 at 10:55 AM

ED

“ Thinking of you during this difficult time. I'm so sorry for your loss, and I hope you find moments of comfort and peace in the days ahead. Please know you're in my thoughts.

Ed Degan - January 26 at 09:10 PM

SG

“ Sincerely, Chris, MLT, & the GMO planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William F. Sheahan III.

Sincerely, Chris, MLT, & the GMO - January 26 at 02:36 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of William F. Sheahan III.



January 26 at 02:36 PM

KO

“ Kathy, I am so sorry about your brother. Please know you have our sympathy. Karen & Randy Osborn

Karen Osborn - January 25 at 10:20 AM

BF

“ Dear Sheahan Family,

I was deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and know that my thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

I had the privilege of being Bill's "backup" on some architectural projects when he went on vacation or was sick over the decade or so. During this time he was kind enough to offer me many of his architectural books and manuals as he closed his physical office. I enjoyed his company and was happy to have gotten to know him and learn from his many years experience in the profession!

With sincere sympathy,

Bryan Falk

Bryan J Falk - January 22 at 06:37 PM

CL

“ Marsha, Doug, Coleen, and Michael, I was so saddened when Doug reached out to me and shared the passing of Bill. I always enjoyed visiting with him, hearing his boisterous laugh, and watching that mischievous look he would get in his eyes.

Watching the video memorial only solidified what I already knew about Bill. He loved being a father, and later on a grandfather. Please know that you are all in my prayers and that Bill will be missed by many.

Caleb LaRue - January 21 at 05:02 PM

BC

“ *Ben & Erin Cox purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of William F. Sheahan III.*



Ben & Erin Cox - January 21 at 03:46 PM

NK

“ *Marsha, Coleen, Doug, Michael & your families-I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Bill was a great guy and one of the best neighbors that we've ever had. You are all in my prayers.*

Nancy Kohake - January 21 at 01:19 PM

BF

“ *Marsha and family, our deepest condolences for your loss.*

Bobby Freeman - January 21 at 12:29 PM

SS

“ Martha and family, so sorry to hear of your brother’s passing. Please know you are in my prayers. I was trying to come up with the last time our paths crossed, but cannot forget the sleep overs in grade school (best snacks ever), our time in Girl Scouts and first Friday masses. I drove by your old house while detouring around a wreck on 17th a couple of years ago and smiled at the memories.



I hope life has been kind and that you are well. Ah... those were simpler times.

My thoughts are with you and yours, may His peace bring you comfort as you lay your brother to rest.

Love and prayers,

Sue Swalwell

Susan Swalwell - January 21 at 11:09 AM

JD

“ Bill was a nice person with a great sense of humor. My condolences to you Marsha and all the family.

Jeff Dishman - January 21 at 10:13 AM

JH

“ Marsha, I am so sorry to hear about Bill. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Joe Hoytal - January 21 at 08:31 AM

MB

“ *Marsha, I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was always so entertaining and will be missed by so many people. I'm thinking about you and praying for you.*

Michelle Brokaw - January 20 at 07:40 PM

DK

Marsha, I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. The years and memories you have had together will be something you will cherish and still allow you to have him by your side. We all love you!

Doug and Becky Kinsinger

Doug and Becky Kinsinger - January 20 at 10:17 PM



Marsha and family, So sorry to hear about Bill's passing. Please accept our deepest sympathies.

Lana and Arnold Gordon

Lana Gordon - January 21 at 07:58 PM

ND

Good architect, good commissioner, great human being. Life well lived.

Neil Dobler - January 23 at 07:20 PM