



## William C. Swinney

February 17, 1947 - October 9, 2022

William “Bill” C. Swinney, 75, Topeka, Kansas went to be with his Lord and Savior for eternity on October 9, 2022, at McCrite Health Center after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Bill was born February 17, 1947, in Davenport, Iowa to Charles A. and Ruth B. Taber Swinney. The Swinney family moved to Valley Center, Kansas in 1957.

Bill was a 1965 graduate of Valley Center High School. Bill was a Boy Scout and attended Camp TaWaKoNi several years near Augusta, Kansas. He participated in a camping expedition to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Silver Cliff, Colorado. He was the only scout in his troop who earned a rifle marksmanship merit badge. Bill attended Kansas State University. While there he participated as a member of the varsity crew rowing team as well as Kansas State Players, a drama group. Bill graduated from Kansas State University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education.

Bill taught school at Chapman High School until 1975 at which time he completed a Master’s of Science Degree in Secondary Guidance Counseling. He met his best friend, Barbara A. Hays during summer school at KSU in 1974. On July 26, 1975, he married Barbara. He was a guidance counselor at Valley Falls High School for two years. He taught English at Jefferson West High School in Meriden, Kansas from 1977 until 2002 during which time he

coordinated a work-study program. During this time, he also completed a Master's of Science in Secondary Education Administration.

During his high school teaching experience, Bill was a Kansas Master Teacher nominee in 1984, presented at writing skills and creativity conferences and was presented an outstanding writing teacher award in 1991. He was co-founder in 1996 of the Richard G. Hause creativity lecture series at Kansas State University. He served on the North Central accreditation evaluation team for Elwood, Kansas. From July 2002 until March 2012, he served as a career/academic advisor at Allen Community College. Bill participated in leadership summits in Washington, D.C., educational leadership colloquiums, Kansas campus compact institutes and was named to the Kansas campus compact task force, participating in composing the original proposal which established the Kansas Council for Workforce education and served on the Board of Directors.

Bill enjoyed serving his community. He served as a Boy Scout leader in Abilene, Kansas. He also served as a deacon at several churches and as an interim pastor at Trinity Baptist Church. He was a member of First Southern Baptist Church in Topeka.

Bill is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Tiffany Sejas (Jose) and Bethany Cox (Derek); his beloved grandson, Hudson M. Cox, and a second Cox grandchild due in 2023; as well as loving mother-in-law, Virginia L. Hays. His son Scott also survives. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Barbara Robel (Raydon).

Visitation will be 5 to 6 p.m. Friday, October 14, 2022, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Funeral service will be 10 a.m. Saturday, October 15, 2022, at the funeral home. Burial to follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to BoysTown at [support.boystown.org](http://support.boystown.org).  
Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

3616 SW 6th Street  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **14**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 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

OCT **15**. 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



“ *William C. Swinney*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Mr. Swinney was my favorite teacher. He went out of his way to be encouraging and inspiring. He brought Shakespeare to life teaching us to work through the old English to the sentiment behind the words. Some of the kids gave him hell but his love of youth and education always won the day. He was a man among men and leaves a strong legacy through the many he guided through adolescence. I am proud to be one of them. Treasa (Kleinschmidt) Jenson, Class of 1984*

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**Treasa Jenson** - October 19, 2022 at 04:53 AM



“ *Mr. Swinney was one of my most unforgettable teachers. A good man who cared, and also had a sense of humor. He will be missed. Dale Miller, Graduating Class of 1985*

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**Dale Miller** - October 17, 2022 at 09:13 PM

SG

“ My husband, Mark, and I want to send our sympathy at this separation of Bill from your presence. As temporary as this may be, the pain we bear is just as real. I've read several comments made by some of his past students..several who now realize the love he had for his community, his family, His Lord and Savior...and also for each of them.

We may not realize the lives that we touch..the impact we make on them. May God never stop the Grace that He extends to us, and may we never stop realizing how fortunate we are to have the positive influence of those, like Bill, who put Him first in their lives, who care enough to spend their earthly life in service to Him. May God give you peace during this time.

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**Suzanne Gordon** - October 14, 2022 at 04:15 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William C. Swinney.



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October 14, 2022 at 12:41 PM

ZS

“ May he Rest In Peace. I know he served his students well. It was a privilege to be a colleague of Bill's from 1978-82. My condolences to his family.

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**Zoe Seymour** - October 14, 2022 at 02:43 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William C. Swinney.*



October 13, 2022 at 08:50 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William C. Swinney.*



October 13, 2022 at 08:04 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. I taught with Bill at JWHS from 1981 - 1987. We car pooled together each day from Topeka to Meriden so I had some good conversations with Bill. I don't know as we solved any of life's problems, but it made the drive more enjoyable. I'm sure he made a positive impact on the lives of many students.*

**Melanie Hoch** - October 12, 2022 at 09:00 PM



“ *Your Enrollment Management Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William C. Swinney.*



**Your Enrollment Management Family** - October 12, 2022 at 03:14 PM

LF

“ Love-Kristi, Kevin, Kerry & Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of William C. Swinney.



Love-Kristi, Kevin, Kerry & Family - October 12, 2022 at 11:04 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William C. Swinney.



October 11, 2022 at 11:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William C. Swinney.



October 11, 2022 at 03:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William C. Swinney.



October 11, 2022 at 11:28 AM

T9

“ *Mr. Swinney was always a great teacher. I always enjoyed his classes. He was a very caring person. My thoughts and prayers to his family.*



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**Tammy class of 94** - October 10, 2022 at 11:32 PM

LD

“ *He was one of if not kindest teachers I ever had. He taught because he really cared about younger ones learning. His heart was pure. God bless him. (1985 JWHS graduate)*

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**Lisa Fristam Duniven** - October 10, 2022 at 08:46 PM

JA

“ *Mr. Swinney was one of the most caring teachers I had in High School. He always greeted you with a smile and a good laugh. I had him first hour my Junior (2000) year, he would let us use the phone to call friends that were tardy to get them to school and would excuse tardies when the student brought a bag of McDonald's breakfast sandwiches to share. I still know all the lines to the movie The President. A great man that touched many lives.*

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**Janelle** - October 10, 2022 at 04:25 PM