



# The Record

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## Robert L. McKnight

February 23, 1947 – June 16, 2022

Overland Park, KS – Robert L. McKnight, “Rob,” never a baseball fan, slid into home base after a poor start to the season, with his family patiently waiting for the game to end on his terms.

A proud son of Wichita, Rob was born there to Philip Charles and Margaret McClymonds McKnight on February 23, 1947. Rob’s father was advertising Director for Beech Aircraft and his mother was the consummate homemaker, even taking a job teaching young marrieds how to use new-fangled electrical appliances. Rob was the middle child; make of that what you will. Older brother Phil (Lawrence) and younger sister Susan (Wichita) have remained a tight-knit group, even though they have never lived in the same place as adults. His was a typical, happy 50’s childhood with Rob enjoying school, swim club and being Jim Ryun’s track manager. In 1966 Rob’s father was taken from the family in a tragic accident just as Rob started college. That’s when he would say that his mother no longer had the fortitude to deny or rein in his creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. Yes, she allowed him to own and run 3.2 beer halls in Hutchinson and Lawrence, all while

he was supposed to be matriculating. The stories of events and personalities that moved in and out of the Red Dog Inn in Lawrence never left his repertoire of life’s adventures. Distracted, he should have graduated with a degree in advertising from KU in 1969, but came up a few hours short. Never mind, he was quickly hired by an agency in Topeka, owned by the adjunct professor who gave him an F on the campaign he submitted for his last final. First assignment: put that campaign into use for a car dealer in Topeka.

Anyone would say that Rob’s work life was an eclectic and interesting one. It ranged from the early years of ad agency work in Kansas City with Barickman, new product development with Rickey & Biederman, publishing grain industry magazines for Sosland Publishing, marketing heavy equipment with RO Corporation, consulting with the Acacia Group in Washington, D.C., and eventually co-owning a few cabs with Floyd Walton, the reliable taxi driver who would meet Rob’s plane on his weekly commute. He worked for others, but all knew that he really excelled at being his own best employee.

In 1977, a high school buddy asked if Rob would pitch in and help with a kitchen table political campaign. Rob planned and executed the campaign for Democrat Dennis Moore, who defeated an incumbent Republican woman, to become Johnson County District Attorney. Rob was smitten with this work where “all the product goes on sale the same day and every customer gets to buy only one.” With the guidance of much savvy mentors, he went on to manage more than 400 campaigns, 90% of them successfully electing moderate Republicans in local and state races. Please don’t hold this against him – he was the one who “invented” those pesky political postcards that now fill mailboxes. He asked, “what is the largest size I can mail for the smallest price,” and now we are all inundated. He was even asked to share his expertise training grassroots campaigners in Arkhangelsk, Russia in 1990. That’s when Republicans were a recognizable breed. A few years back, in a fit of pique, he changed his party affiliation and ran as a Democrat for the State House, losing to a greenhorn kid with an R beside his name who didn’t even live in the district where Rob had

lived since 1978. Oh well ...

Rob was happy to let his candidates shine and take credit for campaign successes, but he had some unusual successes of his own. He learned to fly, bought a Cessna 152, and used it to monitor a woodworking business in Arkansas he shared with a “Rock & Roll” friend he knew from the Red Dog. In an 18 month period, he shook hands with Buckminster Fuller, Evel Knievel, and hugged Tina Turner. He master-minded getting eight tickets in a lottery for the 1988 Final Four tournament at Kemper Arena, then traded four of them for a new shake shingle roof. He loved writing speeches, obits, and Christmas letters for others, never himself. He enjoyed serving on community boards and assisting with his wife’s board service as a problem solver, fundraiser and idea generator, and was especially passionate about his work and advocacy for Planned Parenthood. Lastly, he would say that his life was most enriched by being surrounded by females, his wife of almost 50 years, Caroline, daughters, Molly Lund (Erik) and Betsy Hadley (Patrick), and their daughters, Ellen and Georgia Lund and Claire Hadley. He would say he only had female dogs, but that is a lie. Morgan, a male, was the best pet ever.

Goodbyes are hard, but Rob deserved a rest. He was a stroke survivor since his 55th birthday. His was a life well-lived, if limited in his last 20 years. He never complained, only did his best to find new challenges for himself and others every day. Till the end, he was using waning energy to finalize all the projects in his head. His kindness, humor and intellect will abide. As he would say, “Bless and release.”

Rob requested no service and for his ashes to be scattered in some very unexpected places. Shhhhh! His family will place the remaining ashes next to his grandparents (because he shares a middle name, Lorne, with his grandfather). He never wanted to be the center of attention, so we are still working on a plan to celebrate his life at a later date in a way that would please him.

Gifts in his memory can be sent to the Johnson County Library Foundation (<https://www.jocolibraryfoundation.org/donate/> or P.O. Box 2933, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201) or to a charity of your choice.

# Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

From one extreme to another. Boy is it ever hot! Can't believe what it is going to do next. Keeps me wondering what to use: the umbrella, the heater, the fan or AC. Walked my little furbaby and tanning already. But whatever will be, will be.

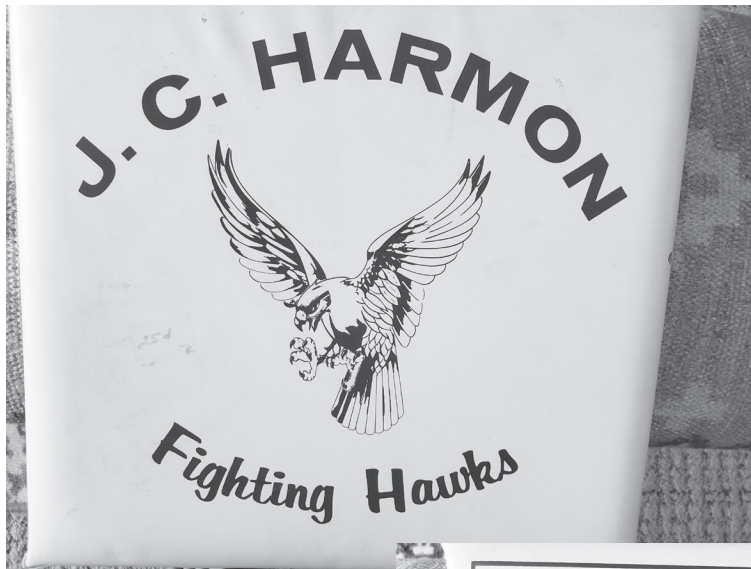
I sure have been busy lately. It takes my mind off of all the Covid stuff, these horrible shootings at the public places, schools, grocery stores, etcetera. What in tarnation is wrong with people anyway?

Seems as though we've lost something somewhere. Our kindness, our friendliness, our compassion, our love for mankind (and womankind). What next? Wars here and there, gas prices, food prices, baby food shortages, kids killing each other, parents killing their kids, kids killing their parents.

Why are our people in America getting mean? It is almost too scary to go out anywhere. Now this Monkey disease that is coming. Back to the masks again I guess.

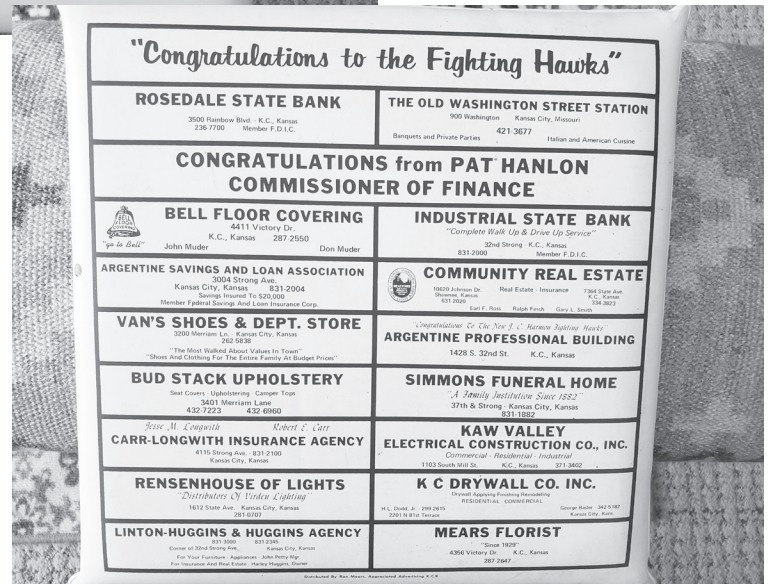
I do miss the things our group used to do: dominoes, group gardening, potlucks, our clown meetings, just life itself. Everything changes, but change itself. Miss everybody. Miss you, you, and you too. Please my friends, family, new acquaintances and my old ones too, keep your eyes and ears open. Be alert. I hate to sound like an alarmist, just be careful.

Love you all, miss you. Your little ol' gal from Argentine, Sue



When I worked at Harmon High school for 10 years, I got this school cushion. Was really proud of it. I retired in 2003 and have had this at least 20 years.

Advertisers that congratulated the Hawks are on the back of it. Only a few are left. But one I really like is Pat Hanlon. He was our Commissioner of Finance and a good friend of my family. His two daughters and my family all went to New York to be on television on the Ted Mack show. Pat gave me my first wrist watch when I was a pre-teen. His two daughters were trampoline artists. But they all got to be on black/white TV. My family also played for the grand opening of WDAF TV and we got to meet Randall Jessee.




## KCKCC Receives \$1.4 Million Grant to Serve Local High School Students

Kansas City Kansas Community College has been awarded \$1.4 million by the U.S. Department of Education to implement the Upward Bound program. The grant begins in Fall 2022 and will continue through August 2027.

“Being awarded the Upward Bound grant allows Kansas City Kansas Community College to expand services into schools to help those students who need it the most. These expanded services, built around intensive and intentional academic and student support services, will help increase high school graduation rates and college preparedness,” said Dr. Greg Mosier, president of KCKCC. “The Upward Bound program expands KCKCC’s ability to positively impact workforce needs and educational readiness of underserved students in our community.”

The Upward Bound program serves low-income and potential first-generation college students with the goal of preparing participants for college. Students receive comprehensive academic assistance and overall support for students and families, including advising, tutoring, study skills workshops, test taking support and college and financial aid application assistance.



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By Sharon Hoover

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

least for the past four years. Recently Patrick Mahomes' foundation "15 and Mahomes" has affiliated with them. Congratulations to the YVC. They are a deserving group, and the garden has benefitted from their efforts. They plan to be back working in the garden later this summer.

When I was listing the farmer's markets last week, I left out one. Meinke's Market is located at 4900 S. 142<sup>nd</sup> St. They are open Monday thru Saturday from 5pm-7pm.

Turner Recreation brought back "Food Truck Thursdays" this year. Yesterday was the second week with tacos being on the menu. It is open from 6pm-8pm in the parking lot of the Turner Rec building and I believe is scheduled until August. TRC is also sponsoring a Fireworks display at Pierson Park, 1800 S. 55<sup>th</sup> St. on July 1, 2022 at 9:45pm. You

can see the direction of traffic flow and designated parking at <http://bit.ly/TRCfireworks>.

The Wyandotte County Fair is being held from July 12-16 at the fairgrounds, 13700 Polfer Road. I don't have any other details but if you are interested in securing a place, go to [www.wycofair.com](http://www.wycofair.com) and click on booth/exhibits. More information to follow as I get it.

Rosedale Development Association is holding its "Rosedale Week at Camp Wildwood" on July 25-29, for students entering the 3-8 grade. Contact 913 677-5097 for more information. Save the date: RDA is also holding the Healthy Kids Carnival on July 13, from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

General Motors is seeking entry level and experienced applicants at the General Motors Fairfax Assem-

bly & Stamping Plant. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 626 Minnesota Ave from 10 am - 1 pm. See all the jobs at [KansasWorks.com](http://KansasWorks.com). Nos. 12069872 12069862 12069840. To schedule an interview call (913) 279-2600 or [fdwy@workforcepartnership.com](mailto:fdwy@workforcepartnership.com).

The Health Dept., 619 Ann, is giving Pfizer-BioNTech covid 19 booster shots for ages 5-11. Call for an appointment 913-573-8815. The FDA just approved both the Moderna & Pfizer covid shot for those under 5, so you may want to check with the Health Dept. It could save you an extra trip.

Until next time stay safe and be kind to those around you. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to be free.

This is my week for adding to or correcting a couple of my previous articles. The first is that I incorrectly named the volunteer group that worked in the Turner Community Garden a few weeks ago. They were the Youth Volunteer Corps and have given two weeks of their time each summer at



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# Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad at Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

They left during the middle of the night—often carrying little more than the knowledge that moss grows on the north side of trees. An estimated 100,000 enslaved people between 1830 and the end of the Civil War in 1865 chose to embark on this journey in search of freedom. They moved in constant fear of being killed or recaptured, returned, and beaten as an example of what would happen to others who might choose to run. Under the cover of darkness, “fugitives” traveled roughly twenty miles each night, traversing rugged terrain while

enduring all the hardships Mother Nature could bring to bear. Occasionally, they were guided from one secret, safe location to the next by an ever-changing, clandestine group known as the Underground Railroad. Many consider the Underground Railroad to be the first great freedom movement in the Americas and the first time when people of different races and faiths worked together in harmony for freedom and justice. Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad opens June 15, 2022, at Kansas City, Kansas

Public Library

Photographer Jeanine Michna-Bales has spent more than a decade meticulously researching “fugitive” enslaved people and the ways they escaped to freedom. While the unnumbered routes of the Underground Railroad encompassed countless square miles, the path Michna-Bales documented encompasses roughly 2,000 miles and is based on actual sites, cities, and places freedom-seekers passed through during their journey.

Whether they were enslaved people trying to escape or free blacks and whites trying to help, both sides risked everything for the cause of freedom. From the cotton plantations south of Natchitoches, Louisiana, all the way north to the Canadian border, this series of photographs by Michna-Bales helps us imagine what the long road to freedom may have looked like as seen through the eyes of one of those who made this epic journey.

While many books have been written on the subject, there is very little visual documentation of the Underground Railroad because of its secretive nature. Today, as America becomes more and more diverse, Michna-Bales believes that an understanding of the experience—and those who lived through it—is more relevant than ever. The Underground Railroad united people from different races, genders, social levels, religions, and regions in a common and worthwhile cause. It was the first civil rights movement in America. Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad encourages visitors to learn more, ask questions, and open a dialogue on the subject, and in the end, provide a better understanding of our origins.

This exhibition features beautifully dramatic color photographs, ephemera, and narratives that together tell the story of the Underground Railroad. The author is working with Princeton Architectural Press to prepare a publication that will combine eighty-two original photographs and text with a di-

verse sampling of related ephemera.

Along with the exhibit, the library will host two programs. On June 23, Kansas City, Kansas fiber artist NedRa Bonds will discuss the history of the Quindaro Township and neighborhood. One of her best-known works is her Quindaro Quilt which illustrates the history of Old Quindaro and its role in the Underground Railroad. On July 7, Dr. Nicole Etcheson will discuss the Quindaro Township’s role in Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War. Dr. Etcheson is a professor at Ball State and the author of Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era. More information about both programs can be found at [kckplprograms.org](http://kckplprograms.org)

This exhibition was organized by ExhibitsUSA, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.

About ExhibitsUSA

This exhibition is toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than twenty-five exhibitions on tour to over 100 small- and mid-sized communities every year. These exhibitions create access to an array of arts and humanities experiences, nurture the understanding of diverse cultures and art forms, and encourage the expanding depth and breadth of cultural life in local communities. For more about ExhibitsUSA, email [MoreArt@maaa.org](mailto:MoreArt@maaa.org) or visit [www.eusa.org](http://www.eusa.org).

About Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

Kansas City, Kansas Public Library was formed in 1893. In 1899, it came under the authority of the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District Board of Education and remains there today. It serves a population of approximately 163,227. The mission of Kansas City, Kansas Public Library is to connect members of a dynamic community with information, tools, resources, and welcoming spaces to enrich lives in Wyandotte County. The library can be found online at [kckpl.org](http://kckpl.org)

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## NOTICE TO BIDDERS: REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR LED VIDEO BOARDS (WALL)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Executive Director of Turner Recreation Commission, Kansas City, Kansas until 1 pm on July 7 at Turner Recreation Commission Center, 831 S. 55th St. Kansas City, Kansas 66106, for LED VIDEO BOARDS (WALL).

Bids shall be identified on the exterior of the sealed envelope with all the information required by law, including the name of the project and the bidder's name and address. No bids will be received or accepted after the above specified time for the opening of bids. Bids submitted after the designated hour will be deemed invalid and returned unopened to the bidder.

The Turner Recreation Commission reserves the right to waive any irregularities or reject any or all bids, as well as the right to place orders based on the Commission's needs and budget constraints; therefore, the Commission may not order every item listed in the bid document. Copies of the bid document may be obtained at Turner Recreation Commission Center located at 831 S. 55th St., Kansas City, KS 66106 or by email at [spencerr@turnerusd202.org](mailto:spencerr@turnerusd202.org). The Turner Recreation Commission complies with all statutes and regulations as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and as amended, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.I.100.259).

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# Guest Editorial

By Tom Valerde

The Select Committee's hearing showed all Americans that President Trump's claims of a stolen 2020 election were, to use former Attorney General Barr's words, "Complete nonsense."

We heard from Donald Trump's own campaign experts, his own campaign lawyers, his own campaign manager, his Attorney General, and others Donald Trump appointed to leadership positions in the United States Department of Justice.

President Trump's advisers knew what he was saying was false and they told him so directly and repeatedly. The testimony of our hearings is available on the Select Committee's website: [January6th.house.gov] so all Americans can easily view it.

In our next hearing, the Select Committee will examine President Trump's relentless effort on January 6 and in the days before hand to pressure Vice president Pence to refuse to count lawful Electoral College votes.

As a federal judge has indicated, this likely violated 2 federal Criminal Statutes. President Trump had no factual basis for what he was doing and he had been told it was illegal. Despite this, President Trump plotted with a lawyer named John Eastman and others to overturn the outcome of the election on January 6th. To give you sense of the gravity of these issues, here is a clip of one of President Trump's White House lawyers who speaks with Mr. Eastman the day after January 6th.

**Liz Cheney, Vice-chair  
January 6 Select Committee**

Eric Herschman: "It was the day after, Eastman, I don't remember why he called me -- he wanted to talk with me and he said that he couldn't reach others. And he started to ask me about something dealing with Georgia -- preserving something potentially for appeal."

And, I said to him, "Are you out of your f'ing mind?" I said, "I only want to hear 2 words coming

out of your mouth from now on: Orderly transition! I don't want to hear any other f'ing words coming out of you, no matter what, other than orderly transition."

"Repeat those words to me, eventually he said, orderly transition." I said, "Good John, now I'm going to give you the best free legal advice you're ever going to get in your life: Get a great F'ing Defense Lawyer, you're going to need it!" Then, I hung up on him."

**Source: MeidasTouch**

I know the fragility of democracies and the character of the people you elect determines whether or not democracies survive. And I think we're seeing the character of these people on full display."

**Stephanie Murphy, (D)  
Florida, member January 6  
Committee**

Now, many reasonable Americans wait with baited breath to hear from the US Department of Justice announce the Criminal indictments of the Ex-president and all others who conspired to overturn the outcome of the 2020

election. So many say that Trump has done nothing wrong and ask what all the fuss is about? They have been made to believe only in his words; the words of others are deemed, "Fake News," and ignored. Our fragile democracy and the Freedoms it provides to us was so very close to being taken from us all. Even without Trump in office, republicans in many States have put new Statutes on the books which make Voting more difficult. This is one of our most sacred liberties and they are empowered by the ex-president to go ahead and enact these backwards laws.

It isn't difficult to see just how easily we all can be stripped of the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. Traitors and people who can easily conspire to work against the rights of Americans must be made to face Justice. And Congress must enact new laws to help prevent anything like January 6 from hap-

## Message From the January 6th Committee

pening again. And we all, no matter our political affiliation, must have constructive discussions with one another. We all are Americans, we are a union of the diverse many and we need to work to keep it that way.

We become a target for invasion, for war, unless we can peacefully live together our strength comes from all of us being united and caring about each other. The 21 century is ours to lead!



### Passings...

By Sue Reich

Randy Alan Lust, age 56, passed away on June 10, 2022. Graduated from Turner High School, Independent Contractor.

David A. Vega, age 95, passed away on June 6, 2022. David was born on April 13, 1927, in Kansas City, Kansas, to Joseph and Esperanza (Alvarado) Vega, and raised in the Argentine community, where he was a lifelong resident. He married the love of his life, Armella Vallejo, on May 4, 1944, and together they raised 6 children.

July 1945, he was called upon to defend his country, and was enlisted into the United States Army where he served in the 78th division, 310th Infantry, 131st Quartermaster Truck Company, serving in Berlin, Germany during World War II. He was honorably discharged in July 1946. After returning from the war, he earned his trade as an auto mechanic from Stevinson Auto & Electrical School. In 1951, he was offered to take over the lease of the Texaco Gasoline Station at 26th and Strong, where he had previously worked, and for twenty-nine years, successfully operated his business. In 1968, he was the first Hispanic to run and be elected to a political office in Kansas City, Kansas. He was appointed as a commissioner of the Kaw Valley Drainage Board, and later served as the superin-

tendent of the commission until he retired from that position in 1995.

David was dedicated to public service during his lifetime. He served on numerous boards and committees, such as, El Centro Inc., Area Agency on Aging, Board of Education, Urban renewal community development projects through the Villa Argentina organization, Housing Authority, Cross-Lines Board, American GI Forum, a charter member of the American Legion Post 213 Eagle's Nest, just to name a few. In recognition of his public service and dedication, on April 4th, 1991, the park located at 24th & Metropolitan was renamed Vega Field in honor of David Vega, under Resolution 37325, issued by the city of Kansas City, Kansas government.

David and Millie were married for 73 beautiful years, before her passing in 2017. They raised six children with a dedication to God, filled with love, respect, and the importance of family. They were also active in the care and raising of their many, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

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