



Jesse Malvin Freeman Jr

July 6, 1946 - January 10, 2026

Jesse Malvin Freeman Jr.

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Mr. Jesse Malvin Freeman, age 79 of Lenexa, Kansas, passed away peacefully in the presence of his loving wife and family on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

Jesse was born on July 6, 1946, in Kansas City, Missouri, son of parents Jesse Malvin Freeman Sr. and Mildred Hill Freeman. Jesse was preceded in death by his parents Jesse and Mildred Freeman and sister Vickie Gillespie.

He is survived and dearly missed by his loving wife of 43 years, Nancy Howser Freeman. His children Danielle Freeman, Tiffany Freeman Cotton (Jason), Kara Larson Brent (Greg), Shana Larson, Grant Larson (Samantha), grandchildren Chase Cotton (Hunter), Brooke Cotton, Garrett Larson, Grayson Larson (Skai), Athena Brent, Jessica Brent, Lilly Carley, Angis Carley, Brohk Carley, niece Kristen Gillespie and nephew Todd Gillespie.

Jesse graduated from Northeast High School, Kansas City, Missouri, 1964, and was an Eagle Scout receiving The God and Country Award. He was a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, an honor society for members of Scouting

America. Jesse served two years, 1966 -1968, in the US Army, mostly in Germany. Using the GI Bill, he was able to complete his Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in 1978 from Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Missouri. His early career was spent at Farmland Industries, followed by Seaboard/Cargill for a number of years. In his final 32 career years he was with Russell Stover Candies as Vice President Shipping/Traffic. He retired in January 2016 to spend time with his wife, golfing, traveling, and visiting family and friends. Living the good life.

Please, in lieu of flowers, the family wishes for donations to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) - Donated funds go directly to assisting local veterans right here in Lenexa, Kansas. The VFW does everything from getting veterans to and from their appointments, helping with paying utilities, feeding and clothing veterans and much more.

Venmo@VFW7397KS

Or mail checks to -

Attention: Quartermaster

VFW Post 7397

9550 Pflumm

Lenexa, Kansas, 66215

Services for Jesse will be held at:

Maple Hill Funeral Home, 3300 Shawnee Drive, Kansas City, Kansas, 66106

Monday, January 19, 2026.

Visitation will be 9:00-10:00 AM.

Celebration of Life at 10:00-11:00AM.

Graveside Memorial to follow.

Immediately following graveside services family and friends are welcome to come pay respects for a life well-loved and lived at the home of Jesse and Nancy Freeman, 8080 Monrovia Street, Lenexa, Kansas, 66215.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

2301 S 34th St
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 262-6610
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 19. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life

JAN 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Graveside Memorial Service

JAN 19 (CT)

Maple Hill Cemetery
2301 S 34th St
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 262-6610
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Jesse Malvin Freeman Jr* ”



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - January 16 at 04:59 PM

AM

“ I just learned last night of Jess's passing. I had no idea. Words fail me in expressing my sincerest condolences to Nancy and all of Jess's family.



I worked for Jess at RSC for 13.5 years. I had actually responded to an open position in HR and upon arrival they said they had someone else for me to meet. That interview lasted just over two hours. We both shared a love of golf, and the rest was history. He was an incredibly wise man, a great mentor and became a close friend. Jess was knowledgeable of all things transportation, shipping and logistics. He used his extensive network of transportation partners to work miracles when things needed to happen yesterday. He was widely known and respected in his field, and I loved sharing in that with him. He had two sides to his personality . . . a beautiful, personable side and a no-nonsense side. I knew and respected both. He had a firm determination and never accepted less than the best from anyone. And I'll be darned if the guy wasn't correct about most everything 99.9% of the time. I was right about one thing; however, and it was his over-use of commas (,) in interoffice correspondence. I won that battle and he let me own the victory. We were a couple of hardheads.

Jess had a hand and head for business, but his heart belonged to his family and friends. Anyone who knew him, knew this. I remember early on when his mom, Mildred, would call for him and ask if he was still coming to lunch at her house on a particular day of the week. I got such a chuckle out of her. She was a wonderful mother through and through. I got to know Mildred through our phone conversations and was honored to attend her funeral years later when she passed away. Jess loved his mother dearly.

Again, Jess loved golf and had two close buddies who would call every week. They laughed when I'd tell them Jess was busy (ha, ha), but he always took time to chat for a few moments and confirm a tee time for the weekend. Skip and Coleman, wherever you might

be, "hey" from Angelia. And Jess really was busy.

My favorite memories of Jess are the countless times over the years when we would sit in his office and just talk about anything but work. We discussed the taboos of religion and politics. Fortunately, we were on the same page on both subjects. But we also talked about music (we both loved Sinatra, Tony Bennett, etc.), family and the ways of the world. I can't help but laugh (and cry) over some of the popular conversation topics we would share today. The world has changed a great deal in the last decade.

To Nancy and all of Jess's family and loved ones, you were priceless to him. If for some strange reason you weren't already aware of this, you are now. He loved talking about you in all aspects . . . marriages, making him a grandfather, spending an evening of dinner with older family members once a month and just living life with integrity and meaning. And, Nancy, he adored you as I came to do, as well, from working with him. You were his rock.

I can't fight the tears of sadness in not getting the opportunity to say goodbye to a man who meant so much to me, taught me so much about work in the real world, the value of a job well done and the love of family. So, Jess, I hope you get this memo . . . "Thank you, sir, for so much. And I'm sorry for how we left things. Please forgive me, Jess. The knowledge you've given me and all your lessons are engrained in me. Your words pop into my head every day. I promise you they do. And I listen to them. My heart is broken, dear friend. I will miss you and always cherish our friendship and our time together. Be well, dear friend. Much love to you always."

Angelia Marquis

Angelia Marquis - January 27 at 04:29 PM

KG

“ Jesse was a class act, and it was an honor to know and learn from him. Jesse would help anyone who came to him with logistics issues, often saying, "I am going to have to pull another rabbit out of my hat on this one!" I am sure that he pulled many from his hat during his time at RSC. My deepest condolences to his family.



Kimberly Gipple-Blair - January 20 at 09:07 PM

SK

RIP Jesse!

Scott Kirkpatrick - April 26 at 08:35 AM

TF

“ The Bates and Little families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jesse Malvin Freeman Jr.

The Bates and Little families - January 17 at 05:20 PM

TF

“ The Bates and Little families purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jesse Malvin Freeman Jr.



The Bates and Little families - January 17 at 05:20 PM



“ *Kiley, Christian and Majda purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Jesse Malvin Freeman Jr.*



Kiley, Christian and Majda - January 16 at 10:54 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Jesse Malvin Freeman Jr.*



January 13 at 08:43 PM