



## Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh

April 10, 1962 - August 12, 2022

Mitch Crabaugh lost his incredibly hard fought battle with cancer on Friday, August 12, 2022 at the University of Kansas Medical Center. His family and friends were by his side through it all. It wasn't his first rodeo with cancer; he had sarcoma "right in his road" in 2016-2017. After all the rounds of radiation and chemotherapy, the tumor was small enough to be removed. Before the surgery, he asked Dr. Rosenthal: "will I be able to play guitar?" Dr. Rosenthal smiled and said "yes, I don't see why not." Mitch replied "good, because I couldn't before!" He never missed an opportunity to crack a joke.

Making the Kansas City Star news, Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh was born to Marvin & Phyllis Crabaugh; his mother and his Aunt Jean gave birth to Mitch and his cousin Kerry in the same hospital room on the same day on April 10, 1962. He always knew how to make an impression.

In the Turner area, he grew up as the middle child with two brothers - Dean and Keith. He graduated from Turner High School in 1980. He met his soulmate Kathy Owens, whom he had a plethora of adventures with until finally marrying and having their daughter Karly Chey in 1995. She got his ears, eyes, impeccable taste, and sense of humor.

Mitch radiated warmth and love like a supergiant star. Simply being in his orbit made you kinder, his light illuminated everyone; he never met a stranger. He could have a conversation with anyone about anything. A long conversation.

Very long. He knew a lot of stuff, owed to his avid reading and learning anywhere he went. Plenty of friends have had to turn around and find Mitch at various museums, zoos, and tourist attractions because he would read every single informative blurb, sign, or plaque.

After 23 years as a night custodian at Shawnee Mission School District, he had more time for his favorite hobbies. When he wasn't spending his free time scrapping with his friend Mark, he was riding his Harley-Davidson - his second pride & joy. His brother-in-law Steve was fortunate to accompany him on his last ride. Mitch loved mucking, antiquing, scrapping, and tinkering (earning the name "Tink-Tink" from friend Trogdon). Many will remember him with a drill or a pair of wire-cutters in his hand, donning a headlight. He was always working on things in his backyard (as best friend Jeff knows - still waiting for his riding lawn mower to be finished), helping family and friends with projects, and doing odd-jobs. He wasn't afraid to work hard, evidenced by how well he helped maintain the grounds at the farm with his good friend Bill Smith. Mitch was also an ardent collector of many things. Many many things. He loved collecting Zippo lighters, Hot Wheels, flashlights, X-Box controllers, bandanas, reading glasses, hats, lawn mowers, marbles, stickers, anything with skulls on it, tools, toys, DVDs, comic books, sports cards, flags, gas cans; he loved it all.

He was devoted to his daughter Karly, as she was to him. They shared so many interests and activities; they loved listening to music, building model rockets, reading, playing video games together, and more. Mitch also loved watching movies with Karly. The last movie he saw at the theater was Elvis (2022) on opening night. He sang every word.

Mitch is preceded in death by his brother, Keith Crabaugh; step-father Leon Sell; and his grandparents. He leaves behind his loving family and friends, with fond memories and hearts as big as his. Left to clean out and admire all of his cool shit in his double-car garage is his daughter Karly Crabaugh; and

wife, Kathy Crabaugh. He hopes his father, Marvin Crabaugh; mother, Phyllis Sell; and brother, Dean Crabaugh know every project he helped with took so long because he cared and he wanted to do it the right way the first time (such a perfectionist). He leaves aunts Jean Hershey and Kay Crabaugh, and niece Jessica Crabaugh. He will miss taking Karly to see his in-laws, Marilyn and Jewell Crooks, at their horse farm. Left with his attitude, reliability, and many memories of adventures in the car is his little dog and constant companion Soda-Pop. He also leaves many cousins, and so many friends, who he was always willing to help (sorry if he fell asleep on the couch though, and also for the snoring). He will be profoundly loved and missed, his white-hot starlight still shining upon us all.

Join us at Maple Hill Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, for a visitation at 4:00 PM, and a celebration of Mitch's life beginning at 5:00 PM. Don't worry if you're a little late, Mitch was rarely on time for anything. Instead of flowers, please donate to Pastor Gary's [Central United Methodist Church], where Mitch and Soda-Pop spent a lot of Sunday mornings.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **24**. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

## Celebration of Life

AUG **24**. 5:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

KE

“ *RIP my friend, u will be missed by many. luvu  
Kelly Kennedy*



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**Kellybowerseaton** - July 29, 2024 at 10:29 AM

RE

“ *The obituary written was written very well. My first memories of Mitch was when I was 13 and Mitch worked at Dairy Queen on Shawnee drive where my mother was a manager. He was always smiling and had a lot of girls who were plum crazy over him and his good looks. He was a nice guy. Friendly fun and always smiling. He will be missed by many but we will all be together someday soon in heaven my friends. Until then R.I.P. Mitch your memories will keep us all going until then.*

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**Robin Evans** - November 24, 2023 at 04:11 PM



“ *Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh*

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October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh*

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September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM

KA

“ Mitch would have been so happy to see all of his friends and family that came to show their love and support for his family. He was and is a Great man ,I miss him so much ,it hasn't hit me yet,with being so busy with everything that needs to be done,but knowing that he left such a impression on so many makes it easier for my heart to heal.I will always love my best friend and keep his memories alive.we will be together again someday and that will be a grand day!!

Kathy - August 28, 2022 at 12:15 PM

MW

“ Michelle Norwood Woods lit a candle in memory of Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh



Michelle Norwood Woods - August 25, 2022 at 02:11 PM

VM

“ I've known Mitch for a very long time and I can't ever remember a time when he would just sit and do nothing. Was always tinkering on something. Him and Kathy introduced me to Swap and Shop and to scrapping. He always made it into fun and knew all there was to know about it. When I think of him, I picture him with the flashlight headband he wore. Mitch, it was an honor to have known you. Will see you on the other side one day. Love and miss you.



Vicki Merchant - August 23, 2022 at 06:49 AM

KM

“ *Karly, Kathy, Aunt Phyllis, Uncle Marvin, and Dean...I'm so sorry! Please know that I'm thinking of you and reminiscing about my childhood with Mitchell by my side. Mitchell was my FIRST best friend! I'm sure we met within hours of being born, and from there we shared our baptism, every childhood birthday, church confirmation classes, Christmas eves/days, Thanksgivings and just weekly get togethers between cousins. We are twin cousins! It's a title that I take pride in, and I'm sure Mitch did too! I believe that even as Mitch moves on to heaven to be with Keith, that we will continue to be linked through our twinning, childhood memories, and through the power of Family.*

*With sympathy and love,*  
*Kerry*

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**Kerry Miller** - August 22, 2022 at 08:34 PM

DF

“ *The hours we spent playing domino's and other games will forever be in bedded in my favorite memory's of all times. Mitch will be forever missed. UWMA*

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**Doreen Frazier** - August 22, 2022 at 01:59 PM

DF

“ *Doreen Frazier lit a candle in memory of Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh*

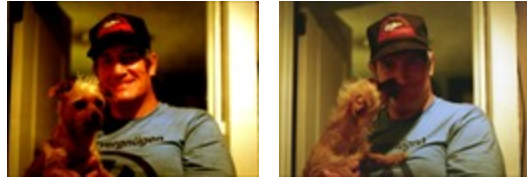


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**Doreen Frazier** - August 22, 2022 at 01:57 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Photos of Mitch from family albums



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - August 22, 2022 at 09:27 AM

JH

“ Janelle Hall lit a candle in memory of Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh



Janelle Hall - August 21, 2022 at 03:00 PM

JH

“ I'll never forget all the wonderful holidays with Mitch and the whole families...usually at the Crabaugh's Home. Playing cards, monopoly and chowing down on turkey and fighting over the "wishbone." Mitch always had a very special smile. I was there when he was born at Bethany Hospital (His Mom and I in the same room) and I was there when he passed from our earth and ascended into heaven. Mitch is now (without pain) reunited with his brother, Keith and Grandparents. Amen.



Jean A Hershey - August 20, 2022 at 01:41 PM

KA

“ *Karly lit a candle in memory of Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh*



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**Karly** - August 19, 2022 at 04:10 PM

DA

“ *Mitch was the kindest man I've ever known.. One fond memory is how he would ask me to fix him "Debbie's" ramen noodles. They had bacon bits and cheese added to them. He loved them that way. His quirky little saying's and his giggly laugh will truly be missed. An awesome friend to of had if you were lucky enough to of met him. Love ya Mitch* ❤️

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**Debbie Ashley** - August 19, 2022 at 01:35 PM

DA

“ *Debbie Ashley lit a candle in memory of Mitchell Gordon Crabaugh*



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**Debbie Ashley** - August 19, 2022 at 01:24 PM