



Kevin John Thornton

June 22, 1949 - June 9, 2026

A Requiem Mass for Kevin John Thornton, 76, will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler, TX with Very Rev. Robert H. Lanik and Rev. Christopher Oraziaka concelebrating. Interment will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Kevin passed away Tuesday, June 9, 2026, in Tyler. He was born June 22, 1949, in Chicago, IL to John Arthur Thornton and Patricia Mooney Thornton.

He attended Ascension Catholic School in Oak Park, graduated Fenwick High School ('67) and received his Bachelor of Arts from The University of St. Thomas ('71) in St. Paul, MN. He married Mary Catherine (Katie) White on July 22, 1972, and the couple raised eight children in their homes in Oak Park ('72-'87) and Villa Park ('87-'20) before retiring to Tyler, Texas. Kevin worked for several leading book publishers in Chicago before bringing his expertise to the Archdiocese of Chicago's Liturgical Institute at The University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL. There, he found his most rewarding professional work, editing books on the beauty of his beloved Catholic faith.

An ardent lover of music and literature, he spent thousands of hours reading the classics to his children and grandchildren. J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Laura Ingalls Wilder were on regular rotation, as were his own legendary tales

of Mike Seahunt and The Lake Swamp Monster. He enjoyed the outdoors year-round, leading Sunday excursions to hike, skate, and cross-country ski. Summers found him rooting for his White Sox, losing golf balls, and savoring beach time with family in Michigan.

More than anything, he loved people. A great conversationalist and encourager of others, he found immense joy in sharing a laugh with nieces, nephews, siblings, in-laws, friends, and anyone who needed a smile. He was enormously proud of his family and delighted in his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In Texas, he and Katie found a welcome community. They sang the Liturgy of the Hours together each morning and attended daily Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler.

In recent weeks, he experienced a sudden onset of esophageal cancer. He faced these trials with his usual wry wit and deep faith. He spent his final days surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Katie, his anchor and the love of his life, held his hand to the end.

Kevin was preceded in death by his father and mother. He is survived by his loving wife, Katie, his children Patrick (Jessica) of Irving, TX, Clare McCormack (Patrick) of West Chicago, IL, Matthew (Kristi) of Scottsdale, AZ, Hope Scarborough (Brady) of Bullard, TX, Charles (Mary) of Burlington, WI, Margaret Versaci (Vincent) of Wheaton, IL, Jack (Clare) of Irving, TX, and Luke (Jane) of Tyler, TX, and by 38 grandchildren (with one on the way) and 4 great-grandchildren (with two on the way). Kevin is also survived by his siblings Mary Pat Collins (Joseph), Susan Wemple (Peter), Nancy, William (Madeline), Patrick (Heather), Brian (Aura) and John (Pamela).

Pallbearers will be grandsons Kevin F. Thornton, Brendan McCormack, Owen

Thornton, Augustine McCormack, Aidan Scarborough, Sean Thornton, Emmet Thornton, Colin Scarborough and Conor Thornton.

A Rosary will start at 4:00 p.m. with visitation following from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to The St. Vincent DePaul Society at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler, TX.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Upcoming Events

Rosary

JUN 15. 4:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Visitation

JUN 15. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Requiem Mass

JUN 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
423 S. Broadway
Tyler, TX 75702

Tribute Wall

LM

“ Lance and Amy Malina purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



Lance and Amy Malina - Yesterday at 07:46 PM

LM

“ Lance and Amy Malina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kevin John Thornton.

Lance and Amy Malina - Yesterday at 07:46 PM

PT

“ Pat & Liz Thornton purchased the Forever At Peace Spray for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



Pat & Liz Thornton - Yesterday at 04:48 PM

IT

“ In Christ, The Catholic Ventures Team purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



In Christ, The Catholic Ventures Team - Yesterday at 04:45 PM

PF

“ Paul and Meg White and family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



Paul and Meg White and family - Yesterday at 01:17 PM

PF

“ Paul and Meg White and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kevin John Thornton.

Paul and Meg White and family - Yesterday at 01:17 PM



“ Uncle Kevin will be profoundly missed and it is our sincere hope he is already interceding on our behalf. His joy and laughter and his genuine interest in all of us was so amazing. Love and Prayers for you all! Meg, Paul and the rest of Team White VA

Meg White - Yesterday at 01:13 PM

DN

“ *My deepest and heartfelt condolences to the entire Thornton family on your loss. My prayers are with you!*



Eternal rest grant unto Kevin John Thornton, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all souls the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. Our Lady, Gate Heaven, pray for us!

Precious Blood of Jesus, save us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us! Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! The Most Chaste Heart of Saint Joseph, pray for us!

Pax Christi!

David Nelson - Yesterday at 11:30 AM

MH

“ *I always loved Kevin's mischievous nature while working with him at LTP. He will be missed.*



Mark Hollopeter - Yesterday at 10:28 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kevin John Thornton.*



June 11 at 08:21 PM

AB

“ Abigail B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kevin John Thornton.

Abigail B. - June 11 at 03:42 PM

MT

“ My condolences to the entire Thornton family. Kevin and I shared so many conversations at LTP about publishing, family, and faith. But most of all we shared a passion for the Chicago White Sox. When he retired I missed his charm and easy presence. Now, may he rest in the peace of Christ.

Michaela Tudela - June 11 at 03:18 PM

DN

“ Kevin was such a kind man. I have so many lively memories of his Irish storytelling gifts. His memory will be treasured by all who worked with him at LTP.
-Danielle Noe

Danielle Noe - June 11 at 03:06 PM

LF

“ Love from the William Thornton Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



Love from the William Thornton Family - June 11 at 09:35 AM

LF

“ Love from the William Thornton Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kevin John Thornton.

Love from the William Thornton Family - June 11 at 09:35 AM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



June 10 at 11:54 PM



“ Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



June 10 at 09:09 PM

BF

“ Brian Thornton Family purchased the Love's Tap estry for the family of Kevin John Thornton.



Brian Thornton Family - June 10 at 10:53 AM