



Kevin Curtis Hand

September 22, 1962 - September 8, 2023

Kevin Hand, 60, of Cape Girardeau, sweet husband, brother, and uncle passed away Friday, September 8, 2023. He was born September 22, 1962 in Warm Springs, GA to Osva Hand and Faye Kelly.

Kevin had a zest for life that was unmatched. He was a life-long surfer in mind and spirit, always dreaming of the perfect wave. A creative soul as well with a career in graphics and visual journalism that spanned decades. He worked for a number of publications including Florida Today, The Honolulu Star Bulletin, The Chicago Tribune, Newsweek Magazine, and The Wall Street Journal, all of which housed innumerable examples of his visual talents.

As a cancer survivor, he spent numerous hours in the cancer infusion ward at Southeast Cancer Center, joking with patients in the guise of the Cancer Chicken. At the time of his death, he was training for his 12th Chicago Marathon, raising money for the American Cancer Society and the Anti-Cruelty Society.

He was loved by many and will be missed. He is survived by his wife, Joni Hand; sister Alecia Taylor; brother, Rodney Hand (KJ Casey); four nieces, Danyale Taylor, Brigit (Michael) Erby, Veronica (Chad) Herrin, and Channel Hand; as well as ten great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Osva and Faye Kelly Hand.

A memorial gathering will be held on Friday, September 15, 2023 from 11:00am - 1:00pm at Ford and Sons Funeral home, Mt Auburn.

Memorial contributions may be given to American Cancer Society PO Box 28566, Saint Louis, MO 63146 or Chicago Anti Cruelty Society at anticruelty.org.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Worked with Kevin in the Chicago Tribune’s editorial art dept. was the most talented artist there. He also was a musician and played drums with the old timers in Andy’s jazz club in Chicago and other places. I cannot believe he is gone... just can’t believe it. We had so much fun!

Scott Holingue - November 16, 2023 at 02:05 AM

SH

He played drums in an old time Chicago Polish neighborhood saloon that had chicken wire in front of the stage so that when music critics threw bottles the musicians were safe. True story that Kevin told very casually!

Scott Holingue - November 16, 2023 at 03:25 AM

JB

“ I knew Kevin in high school. We were in band together. He was so much fun and drew the best cartoons. We connected through email while he was at Newsweek and I was so happy to hear where his talent had taken him. I am so saddened to hear of his passing. A bright star extinguished too soon. It sounds as though he lived life to the fullest. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

Janet Boudet - September 30, 2023 at 09:25 PM

KY

“*In Hawaiian tradition, funerals are a celebration of the person who passed, a time to tell humorous stories and share fond memories so the mourners can laugh. “A hui hou,” they say: Until we meet again. There is no shortage of humorous stories and fond memories about Kevin Hand, one of the best people I’ve ever known who has been taken from us way too soon.*

Kevin and I worked at Newsweek together in the early aughts, when Newsweek was still Newsweek and weekly deadlines meant staying extremely late on Friday nights to put the magazine “to bed.” It was on one of those Friday nights, in the spring of 2001, that Kevin first corralled us up to the roof of the building. Sure, not the safest idea, but the view! Our office was on 57th and Broadway, near Columbus Circle, and was home to a brightly-lit A&E Biography sign. Kevin unscrewed one of the bulbs from the sign and gave it to me. I still have it.

Kevin’s hijinks were not limited to Friday nights. He liked to hide under people’s desks when they were away, then rush out on all fours, snorting like a pig (I realize this sounds weird but, trust me, it was hilarious). One time, he was under a colleague’s desk when a reporter came down to edit a graphic on their screen. He was trapped! He waited until they left to come out. Such fun.

He skateboarded through the empty halls of Newsweek on Saturdays, made paper helicopters to launch down the stairwells, and put mentos in Coke bottles to make them explode.

His antics were also not limited to silly pranks. He arranged for our department to hold our daily meeting at Carnegie Hall one morning. He surprised people with little presents when they were having a bad day. When Eric and I got married, he took multiple photos during the ceremony and stitched them together into a wide panoramic (long before you could do this on your phone). It is our favorite gift and the first thing you see when you walk into our house.

Over the years, we lost touch and reconnected. In March 2014, Kevin organized a “feel good flash mob” in the parking lot of the Missouri cancer center where he was undergoing treatment for stage 4 colon cancer. He wanted the other patients to have something more fun to look at while they were getting their infusions. After he beat the cancer, Kevin dedicated much of his life to raising money for the American Cancer Society. In classic Kevin style, he created an alter ego, the “Cancer Chicken,” as a way to bring awareness to the cause.

Kevin expressed gratitude — mahalo in Hawaiian — for even the smallest gestures of others while playing down his own incredible, righteous actions. I hope he knew how deeply he inspired the people around him.

Karl Gude worried that when Kevin joined Newsweek, he would feel like he needed to abandon his surfer-dude persona for the buttoned-up world of New York magazines (Kevin worked at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for nearly a decade). “But instead we all changed,” Karl said. “He changed us.”

A hui hou, dear friend.

Karen Yourish - September 15, 2023 at 12:44 PM

CK

“ 1 file added to the album *Our Kevin Memories*



Charl Kroeger - September 15, 2023 at 11:10 AM

AS

“ I was briefly acquainted with Kevin. We were both at a Spin Doctor's concert in NYC about 20 years ago. I was hanging out after the show, and he just came up to me and we started talking. We exchanged a few words, and we were talking about our love for the band. For me - a perfect stranger - he ripped a tapped-down set list off of the stage floor and handed it to me. He then escorted me around from band member to band member to gather signatures. I was in awe. I never forgot his generosity or his kindness. That night went from being just a great show to one of the most memorable nights out of my life. I reached out to him on FB a while later. It's been such a pleasure seeing the joy and light he brought to the world. Even though I only really ever knew him for a few minutes of my life, I'm so deeply saddened by his passing. My heart goes out to his friends and family.

Alfred Sterphone - September 15, 2023 at 07:58 AM

DB

“ Kevin was a great inspiration to my wife and me while she was undergoing her cancer treatments. After she passed the Cancer Chicken showed up and mowed my yard. What a guy. Dan Berry

Dan Berry - September 15, 2023 at 05:20 AM

LF

“ Lisa Asmus and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kevin Curtis Hand.



Lisa Asmus and Family - September 14, 2023 at 05:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kevin Curtis Hand.

September 13, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kevin Curtis Hand.



September 13, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kevin Curtis Hand.

September 13, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kevin Curtis Hand.



September 13, 2023 at 04:22 AM

PC

“ From The Wall Street Journal newsroom on Sat. Sept 9:
I am very sorry to have to tell you that our colleague and friend
Kevin Hand passed away yesterday. Kevin joined the Journal in
2019 as a Graphics Reporter creating graphics for our digital and
print platforms.

*He will be remembered for his incredible talent of explaining
complicated topics through illustrations and diagrams and his
magnificent graphics that ran in The Future of Everything. His light-
hearted manner, humor and kindness will be dearly missed.*

*Kevin is survived by his wife Joni and our thoughts and prayers are
with his family at this incredibly sad time. -- WSJ Managing Editor
Liz Harris*

Patrick Chu - September 12, 2023 at 09:32 AM

MP

“ *joni, we are deeply sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you and
sending you a warm hug! Kevin was a wonderful thoughtful man.
Not only did he play santa better than santa himself (true story) . He
did it for all of the kids and adults to smile and laugh! He spent time
putting it all together and it was always the highlight of christmas at
grandmas! we will all miss him dearly! Love you , The Patton's*

Michael Patton - September 11, 2023 at 06:48 PM

SB

“ *Joni, I am so sorry for your loss. Kevin was a remarkable man and
neighbor and will be missed by so many. He always gave a helping
hand to me by mowing my front yard, shoveling snow off the
driveway, helping dispose of fallen trees. He was a true neighbor in
every sense of the word. So thoughtful, caring, and compassionate.
He will truly be missed. Sharon Bennett*

Sharon Bennett - September 11, 2023 at 05:19 PM

SH

“ *Joni,
The love and memories of Kevin will never leave you. So sorry.
Love,
Susan Haight*

Susan Haight - September 11, 2023 at 05:01 PM