



## Douglas Sylvannus McArthur

December 31, 1944 - June 30, 2020

Douglas Sylvannus McArthur (Doug) passed away at Seton Hospital on June 30, 2020, at the age of 75. We will remember Doug as a devoted family man who liked helping others. He took care of his extended family and friends, and would go out of his way to help strangers. Always willing to contribute and get involved, he volunteered with Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby, Project Transitions, Capital Area Parkinson's Society, and Power for Parkinson's.

A problem solver at heart, Doug was diligent and always concerned that things be done right. He considered issues from every angle and prepared for contingencies. He loved a good spreadsheet. He was an engineer by training and worked for the Texas Health Department, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, and Starwood hotels.

Doug was born on December 31, 1944 to Howard and Gladys McArthur. He grew up on a farm near Holdrege, Nebraska. Doug's father died when Doug was a teenager, leaving him to be the man of the family. Doug attended the University of Nebraska, where he met his wife Joan. He was a captain in the Army Medical Service Corps stationed in Korea. He moved to Austin in 1972 to get his master's degree at the University of Texas.

Doug had a playful sense of humor and a penchant for teasing, but he was always full of consideration for everyone. Doug loved travel and gardening,

and he collected rare coins.

Doug is survived by his wife Joan, children Rachel and David and daughter-in-law Bea, and sisters Bonnie Jean Haan, Lanissa Hansen, and Rhoda Preston. Donations in Doug's memory can be made to Power for Parkinson's at [powerforparkinsons.org/donate](http://powerforparkinsons.org/donate), the Capital Area Parkinson's Society at [capitalareaparkinsons.org/support-caps-efforts](http://capitalareaparkinsons.org/support-caps-efforts), or the UNICEF Children's Fund at [unicefusa.org](http://unicefusa.org).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Douglas Sylvannus McArthur*

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *He was not only smart and a deep thinker but fun to talk to and playful. I loved to tease about stealing that black hat until I bought one for myself. I will soon change my Facebook photo to honor Doug and his black hat.*

**Bettye H Short** - December 31, 2020 at 10:10 AM



“ *He was very smart and a deep thinker. I admired him for his outward demeanor, the ability to express his views while respecting an opposite opinion without argument. (Joan's Aunt Luetta, age 91)*

**family** - July 28, 2020 at 12:20 AM



“ *I always liked talking to Douglas - he always had good questions and comments. (Joan's Uncle Vic, age 91)*

**family** - July 27, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ *Sending love to the family. Will always fondly remember hanging out at their place in Austin. Plus the time Rachel, Walter and I helped clean out their attic - Doug and Joan made it fun and funny! Good times.*

**Mo DiGiacomo** - July 25, 2020 at 03:40 PM

FA

“ There will be a virtual memorial for Douglas on August 2 at 2:00 pm CDT. For more info visit <http://www.davidmcarthur.com/DouglasMcArthur/memorial/>

family - July 23, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ Douglas was a thoughtful, intelligent, kind and intriguing man. I love our conversations and to hear the places they traveled. He will be sorely missed at family gatherings!

Tim Hoops - July 23, 2020 at 01:31 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joan - July 22, 2020 at 03:08 PM

FA

Wedding night 12/16/1967

family - July 27, 2020 at 05:43 PM



What a beautiful couple. I'm sorry, Joan, David, Rachel and family. Much love and hugs from afar. -- Whit

Chris Ewen - August 07, 2020 at 10:01 AM

BS

So sad. I miss him. Thank you for sharing this with us.

Betty Short - December 13, 2020 at 05:29 AM

MD

“ *Madeleine Dimond lit a candle in memory of Douglas Sylvannus McArthur*



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**Madeleine Dimond** - July 12, 2020 at 03:48 PM

CJ

*Doug, is a third cousin of 1mK one. Unfortunately never met in person. Rest in peace n tell Alice Mae Brown hello for me. Prayers for his family*

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**Cheryl L Johns** - July 12, 2020 at 05:39 PM

CH

*Joan, David, Rachel, Bea -- I am saddened to learn of Doug's passing. The world is a much better place because he was here with us. I met him in December of 2014. He was Best Man for Lanissa and I when we were married at Doug and Joan's home. Soon after we had a beautiful Austin winter day and the whole party played in a spirited bocce ball game. Beautiful memories organized by Douglas -- who will always be my Best Man! Love and the Best for each of you -- Chris*

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**Chris Hansen** - July 13, 2020 at 03:07 PM

MW

“ *Doug was a high school classmate of my husband and me. Doug always had a ready smile. I remember a Holdrege High School class reunion in which we were blown away by the fantastic dancing of Joan and Shy Foug. shy Doug. Doug was a compassionate and bright person. My sincere condolences to his family. Margrett Pankonin wehland*



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**margrett wehland** - July 12, 2020 at 01:52 PM

SM

“ *Saddened at the loss of a good and kind friend!*

*Steve McCain*

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**Steve McCain** - July 10, 2020 at 02:18 PM

SC

“ *I am so sorry to learn of Doug's passing. Parkinson's has taken away two of the finest in our class in the last 15 months. We honor Doug's service to our country and share our love and memories of him with his siblings and his family in Austin. I wish I had done a better job of staying in touch with Doug after graduating from high school. He was a contributor to great needs and a friend to anyone who took the time to know him. He will be loved and missed by all of us. Sheila Miller Tringe*

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**sheila tringe - classmate** - July 10, 2020 at 12:14 PM

RP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**RHODA PRESTON** - July 06, 2020 at 09:38 PM

RP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**RHODA PRESTON** - July 06, 2020 at 09:37 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joan - July 06, 2020 at 05:25 PM

JO

*Whose chair is this, anyway?*

Joan - July 06, 2020 at 05:28 PM

MD

*Good girl, Sookie! Being close & comforting? Sure, that's it.*

Madeleine Dimond - July 12, 2020 at 03:48 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joan - July 06, 2020 at 04:45 PM

RM

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Rachel McArthur - July 06, 2020 at 04:23 PM



*Joan I am so sorry for your loss.I am glad you retired when you did and had time together.I miss seeing you every day and Nora too*

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**Barry Browning** - July 12, 2020 at 03:30 PM



*Joan, I am so sorry for your loss. I hope you will recover soon and rejoin your friends in the literary group.*  
*Tom Science*

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**Tom Science** - July 13, 2020 at 11:24 PM