

Funeral services to be held this week for Park Ridge alderman



Dan Knight, alderman of Park Ridge's 5th Ward, shares a laugh with Judge John Moran after taking the oath of office for another four-year term on May 4. (Jennifer Johnson / Pioneer Press)

By **Jennifer Johnson**
Pioneer Press

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Funeral services have been set for [Park Ridge](#) Ald. Dan Knight, who died Tuesday after a battle with cancer.

Visitation is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 22 from 3 to 9 p.m. at Cumberland Chapels, 8300 W. Lawrence Ave. in [Norridge](#). Prayers will take place at 11 a.m. Friday morning at the funeral home, followed by Mass at noon at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, Northwest Highway and Washington Avenue, in Park Ridge.

A committal service will follow at Acacia Park Cemetery, 7800 W. Irving Park Road in Norridge.

Knight, 58, served as alderman of Park Ridge's 5th Ward since 2011. He chaired the City Council's

finance and budget committee and Mayor's Advisory Board. A statement from the city of Park Ridge recognized him and the late mayor David Schmidt as "instrumental ... in setting the city on course for financial stability."

"Dan was a great colleague and a great friend," said 6th Ward Ald. Marc Mazzuca on Wednesday. "He always wanted the best for the city, and he wasn't the type who was going to settle for anything less. I'm not sure the general public always knew how much work Dan put in behind the scenes to make good things happen, but everyone on the council did."

Knight was the husband of Susan; father of William and Michael; son of the late Richard and Joan; brother to Patricia (Tom) Konopasek, Mary Kay (Tim) Gaughan, Richard (Patricia), Joanie (Joe) Pearce, John (Marin), Lori (Tom) Kelly, Robert (Pam), Julie (Don) Landgraf, Steven (Joni), Betsy and Michael (Kim); and uncle to many.

Memorials may be made to Leo Catholic High School, 7901 S. Sangamon St. in Chicago or the St. Paul of the Cross Food Pantry, 320 S. Washington Ave. in Park Ridge.

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This article is related to: Park Ridge, Norridge

Park Ridge mourns loss of alderman



Park Ridge Ald. Dan Knight (Brian O'Mahoney / Pioneer Press)

By **Jennifer Johnson**

Pioneer Press

DECEMBER 20, 2016, 4:27 PM

The city of **Park Ridge** is mourning the loss of another elected official.

Dan Knight, who served as alderman of the city's 5th Ward since 2011, died Tuesday after a battle with cancer, said acting Mayor Marty Maloney.

"As a person, he was one of the better men I knew," Maloney said. "And he was good for Park Ridge. This is a loss for Park Ridge. He was a great alderman, and he brought a lot to the position."

Knight chaired the City Council's finance and budget committee, overseeing the council's discussion and consideration of the city's annual spending plan.

"He did a great job of keeping us on task," Maloney said. "It's going to be a different [budget] process this time around for sure. He was a great presence as an alderman and as finance chair. Dan was uniquely qualified to do that."

A friend and supporter of the late mayor David Schmidt, Knight shared many of Schmidt's views, particularly when it came to cutting city expenditures and curbing personnel costs. He also echoed Schmidt's calls for transparency and government accountability, frequently objecting to closed session meetings.

Knight, with Schmidt, started an annual barbecue to raise money for the Park Ridge Fine Arts Society after regular contributions to the group were cut from the city budget several years ago. He and the current aldermen continued the tradition in Schmidt's memory after his death.

Knight most recently was the City Council's liaison to the library board and was chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Board, which interviews and recommends appointments to city boards and commissions.

Prior to running for alderman, Knight was one of a number of residents who advocated against a controversial homeless shelter proposed at St. Mary's Church in 2008.

In addition to the loss of Mayor Schmidt in March 2015, the city lost 3rd Ward Ald. Robert Wilkening in August of last year following a brief illness.

With more than two years left in Knight's term, Maloney said that under state statute, the City Council must appoint a new alderman within the next 60 days.

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This article is related to: Park Ridge

Park Ridge Alderman Knight Dies

By **LAUREN BARRY** Journal & Topics Reporter | Posted: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 3:43 pm

Park Ridge Ald. Daniel J. Knight (5th), 58, died at 11:30 a.m. this morning (Tuesday) at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

According to Knight's family, the alderman was diagnosed with Stage IV kidney cancer about two months ago. Since Thanksgiving, Knight was frequently in the hospital, and therefore was absent from recent city council meetings.

Knight was first elected to the city council in 2011 and was set to finish his current term in 2019. He was also the chair of the finance and budget committee.

In addition to his role as alderman, Knight worked as a finance professional and was retired from a position at the Chicago Sun-Times, where continued to serve as a trustee, according to his son, Will Knight. His son confirmed that he was also a board member of the American Hearing Research Foundation.

"He was a great alderman, and a better person," said Acting Mayor Marty Maloney Tuesday afternoon.

"He brought a great deal of energy and dedication to what he did for the city."

According to Illinois Municipal Code, a new alderman must be selected by the council within 60 days.

Knight would have turned 59 next month. He was a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and DePaul University. Knight is survived by his wife, Susan (nee Muench) and their two sons, Will, a graduate of Marquette University and Michael, a current student at Marquette.

A wake will be held for Knight at Cumberland Chapels, 8300 W. Lawrence Ave. in Norridge from 3 to 9 p.m. on Thursday. On Friday, Knight's funeral will be held at St. Paul of the Cross Church at Northwest Highway and Washington Avenue in Park Ridge at 11 a.m., followed by a noon



Dan Knight

Knight arrives at Park Ridge City Hall in December 2014 to file his candidacy for city council.

committal at the Acacia Park Cemetery, 7800 W. Irving Park Rd.in Norridge. Friel Funeral Directors handled arrangements.

Check back for updates.