



## Mark Alan Hopkins

July 24, 1953 - March 28, 2024

Sadly, Mark A. Hopkins, age 70, of Austin, Texas passed away unexpectedly at his home early on the morning of Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Mark was born in Austin, Texas to parents James Andrew “Mike” Hopkins and Jean Cecelle Hopkins. Pre-deceased by his parents, Mark was the third born of eight children and is survived by brothers, James (Ann), Steve, John, Joe (Ronda), Bill (Marlene), and Michael, and sister Kathryn Murphy (Gary).

Mark was a leader, even as a child, organizing sporting activities – football, baseball, basketball, or tennis – with his younger siblings and neighborhood friends in the Allandale area around Northwest Park. Numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins were encouraged to come together for a friendly summer softball competition between the Hopkins families. Each summer for a number of years the trophy went home with the patriarch of either the Deacon’s Dukes or the Sassy Sluggers. Mark’s long-protruding and loud, “Hi!” on arrival was infectious and all knew the fun was about to begin.

Mark graduated from McCallum High School in 1971 and earned a B.A. degree in biology from The University of Texas in 1975. Naturally, the biology degree propelled him into law. Mark graduated with an M.B.A. and a Juris Doctorate degree in June 1983 from the University of Montana.

Mark met “the light of his life,” Janell Waters, also of Austin, when the two of them worked at the Safeway on Burnet Rd. Mark and Janell married in 1975 and by August of 1976 were living in Missoula, Montana with their three Chow dogs. Montana was a playland for Mark. He enjoyed the wonderment of the mountains; skiing in the winter and spring; wilderness camping in the summer; and white-water rafting.

In 1984 after Mark and Janell’s first child was born in Missoula, the young family moved back to Austin where they welcomed three more children; a daughter and two sons.

Mark was ever-present in the activities and development of his children, striving to enrich their lives in any way he could. During their formative years, Mark was especially active with Northwest Little League and had the privilege of coaching each one of his children on one team or another spanning T-ball, coach pitch, minors, and majors.

Having returned to Austin after law school, Mark’s career in Texas began as a legislative aide during the 69th Regular Session in 1985. After the 70th Regular Session, Mark went to work for the Office of the Attorney General under Jim Mattox where he served ten years with the Highway Division.

During the years thereafter, Mark’s focus turned to various personal projects for friends and family, but beginning in about 2010, Mark found his true passion as a Defense Attorney.

Mark had a tireless, personal mission to represent and defend those of us in society who were, and still are, woefully under-represented. Much of Mark’s work was done pro bono. His heart was most touched by young adults who he believed needed a break in life. Mark would go to great lengths to try and keep these young people from getting that first strike toward creating a

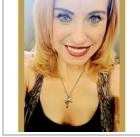
criminal record. Mark loved his work and he was nourished by the goodness of a vast array of clients he met who were just trying to make their way in this world.

Mark's presence will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Mark is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Janell Hopkins; by his four children, Conor Ryan (partner, Danica Ruggles), Brittany Janell Etoye (Taylor), Quinlan Shea, and Kiernan Cleary (wife, Kelley Starnes); and by his three precious grandchildren, Koa Taylor, Marin Hopkins, and Ronan Hopkins. A fourth grandson is expected in the summer. One can imagine Mark cradling him, now, and exclaiming, "He is just delightful!".

At this time a Celebration of Life is pending.

# Tribute Wall



“ I don't have the answer as to why we lose the people we lose in our lives but at this point I have no choice but to question why God has taken the ones who I counted on most and meant so much to me from my life in such a short time span and expect me to keep going and keep my faith and to be honest. I still don't have any clue as to how I am still getting up everyday & holding on to my faith but somehow I do. That said Thursday morning God took someone that I thought of as one of the Greats and blessed to have had him in my life the past 25 years to Heaven. Mark Hopkins was a advisor, confidante, friend, and sometimes more of a father to me than my own and never gave up on me not once. I believe the world also took a big loss on this day . Mark Hopkins was so much more than a lawyer to me for the past 25 years he has gone above and beyond for me. He believed in me when I couldn't even believe in myself and when I needed him he never faltered. From coming to the hospital when I was sick, helping me pack my home and moving my things to storage when I was evicted, getting me my first dog, and helping my family or any friends I asked him to assist when they had legal issues without batting an eye. He didn't just do this for me though so many others would agree that he was the most selfless man they knew and did for so many others even people that were undeserving & ungrateful still he didn't give up on them till his last breath. He was by far the hardest most dedicated person I've ever known and I will miss so much about him. I turned to him for so much because I trusted him more than I have ever trusted anyone else in my life and knew he only wanted what was best for me and would never steer me the wrong way or down the wrong path. I can say that about so few people in my life. I wish I thanked him more and let him know what a difference he truly made in my life. I will miss his advice, his long drawn out lectures, his corny jokes, but mostly I will miss having him to turn to and knowing I had someone to turn to in this world that truly believed in me and I could always count on. I know Mark wouldn't want me to shed so many tears over his loss because he made it clear to me if ever he did pass I better not shed a tear or make a big fuss over him but that would be impossible not to but I know he is up there with my family now most

*definitely one of God's strongest warriors as he was on earth and watching over all of us now and guiding us in ways he couldn't do here. You will forever be missed Mark Hopkins and I am eternally grateful to have had you in my life as long as I did ❤️ Sleep with the Angels now. You did more than your share of good deeds on this earth and now it's time for you to rest.*

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**Melissa Sheridan** - August 29, 2024 at 09:11 AM

GT

“ *Mark was not only a friend, but someone we could count on. He was always willing to serve his community and did it with class. His warm smile, his ongoing support to his clients, made him a class act. You will be missed Mark, but not forgotten. Condolences to Mark's wife and family.*

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**Gloria Terrazas** - July 29, 2024 at 07:17 PM

DC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**dennis christiansen** - May 15, 2024 at 12:42 AM

TD

“ Mark played a big role in my life...he was the big brother I never had. I look back fondly at backyard parties, volleyball games, trips to the lake, country western dancing and long discussions about life, family, and happiness at his kitchen table. When Mark and Janel returned from Montana, our two families continued the tradition of dinners and discussions similar to the Mike and Jean, Walter and Mary family gatherings of our youth! I can picture it now ...a Christmas tree in the corner, kids on the floor watching a movie and Mark, Moises and I awaiting Janel's batch of Pina Coladas! We had so many fun times together! My favorite memory of Mark was when he showed up, out of the blue, to our home with the biggest kite I'd ever seen for our daughter who was recovering from back surgery! Marks affection and genuine love and concern on that day for our daughter demonstrated to me once again what a kind, loyal and caring man he was. I am very sad he was taken away so soon from his children, grandchildren and his sweet, loving wife Janel! Rest in peace Mark. I will miss you, Tina❤️

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**Tina Diaz** - April 29, 2024 at 10:34 PM

SB

“ I knew him from the Courthouse. Always a kind and gentle soul with a nice smile--Steve Brand

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**Steven Brand** - April 17, 2024 at 09:42 PM