



## Michael Francis Shanahan Sr.

October 29, 1939 - January 15, 2018

Shanahan, Michael Francis, Sr., baptized into the hope of Christ's Resurrection, Mon., Jan. 15, 2018, completing a celebrated lifetime of loving service to his family, generosity to charity, and leadership in the St. Louis Business Community.

Michael Francis Shanahan, Sr. was born on October 29, 1939 in University City, MO, dearest son of the late James and Mary Shanahan.

Mike was a devoted family man. He was best friend and cherished husband of 54 years to Mary Ann (Barrett). He was a loving father and father-in-law of Meg (Dave) Mattern, Maureen (Dan) Twardowski and Mike (Paula) Shanahan, Jr.; loving Dadau of Erin, David Jr., Ellie, Emily and Mike Mattern, Samantha, Daniel, Catherine and Tyler Twardowski and Casey, Lily, Joy and Michael Shanahan III; dear brother of Jack Shanahan and the late Jim Shanahan, Eileen Michely, Anna Mae Bay, Terry Dill, Pat Dill and Kathleen Hefley; dear brother-in-law of Ray (Diane) Barrett and the late Jeannine Barrett, Janet and the late Otto Klingler, our dear uncle, cousin and friend to many. Oh, and let's not forget his favorite dog, Marty.

Mr. Shanahan received a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce from Saint Louis University. Over the course of his life, he continued to work in support of educational institutions and initiatives, including Saint Louis

University. In 2002, he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Saint Louis University along with his wife, Mary Ann Shanahan, who earned an Honorary Doctor of Humanities. Mike was also a member of two NCAA championship soccer teams at Saint Louis University in 1959 and 1960. Proudly served with the United States Army Reserve from 1961-1967.

Mr. Shanahan's professionalism and capacity for innovation in business led him on a storied career spanning decades. From 1962-1973, he served St. Louis' McDonnell Douglas Automation Co., in various capacities. In 1981, Mr. Shanahan founded Engineered Support Systems, Inc. of St. Louis, where he served from 1982 to 2005.

Mr. Shanahan served as a Chairman or Member on many Boards of Directors for professional and charitable organizations throughout the region, including: Chairman of the Board of Engineered Air Systems, Inc., Member of the Board of Directors of Engineered Support Systems, Inc., 1986-1995 General Partner, Chairman, and Governor of St. Louis Blues and National Hockey League, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Emeritus Board Member of Saint Louis University, St. Louis Regional Crime Commission, St. Louis Major Case Squad, The Hawthorn Foundation, The BackStoppers, 2000 October 30 Forbes Magazine – "200 Best Small Companies in America" (#100), Volunteer 5 Awards Board of Governors' (KSDK) 1994-1996, Co-Chairman of 1993 St. Louis Counts' Ball, Advisory Committee Member for 1990-98 St. Louis Post-Dispatch Scholar Athlete, Honorary Co-Chairman of 1989 Veteran's Day Observance and Parade, Honorary Chairman of 1989 Small Business Week in St. Louis, Honorary Advisory Committee Member of 1990-1993 St. Louis Senior Olympics, Honorary Board of Paraquid, 1982-1986 Board of Directors of St. Louis RCGA, 1986 Chairman of U.S. Junior Olympics at Washington University, 1982-1992 Board of Director of Catholic Charities, 1986-1987 President of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, 2002-2005 Board of Director of Falcon Companies, 2005 Civic Co-Chairman NCAA Final Four –

St. Louis, and Member of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Corporate Council.

Mr. Shanahan also served as a member of numerous civic, social, and charitable organizations and was the grateful recipient of many prestigious honors and awards, spanning three decades. These services and honors include: 1986 St. Louis Ambassador of the Year, 1987 Olivette Businessman of the Year, 1987 Outstanding Philanthropist, St. Louis Chapter, National Society of Fund Raising Executives, 1987 Maryville College Presidential Sports Award, 1987 MS Society Meritorious Service to Sports Award, 1987 Saint Louis University Alumni Merit Award, 1987 City of Hope Labor Management Spirit of Life Award, 1987 Doctorate of Humane Letter Degree (St. Louis Rabbinical College), 1987 St. Louis Business Leader of the Year (College of Business Administration, SIU Carbondale), 1988 Sales Executive of the Year Award (Sales and Marketing Executives of Metropolitan St. Louis), 1989 Bob Bauman Sportsmanship Award, 1989 St. Louis Port Council's Management Man of the Year Award (Greater St. Louis Area & Vicinity Port Council, Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO), 1990 Community Service Award, in The Spirit of Unity 9(UMOJA) (Better Family Life Inc., St. Louis), 1990 St. Paul Man of The Year Award (The Daughters of St. Paul), 1990 Small Business Administration Hall of Fame Award (St. Louis), 1990 August A. Busch, Jr. Spirit of St. Louis Award – St. Louis National Charity Horse Show, 1991 Toast of The Town Award (St. Louis Cystic Fibrosis), 1991 Jack Buck Award (Missouri Athletic Club), 1991 Sportsman of The Year Award (St. Louis B'nai B'rith Council), 1992 Marianist Youth Medal (Marianist Retreat & Conference Center), 1992 Academy of Missouri Squires, 1994 Sportsman of the Year Award, Saint Louis Ambassadors, 1994 Saint Louis University Billiken Hall of Fame, 1995 March of Dimes National Volunteer Award, 1996 Monsignor Peter Dunne Award (Father Dunne's Newsboys' Home), 1997 The Jewish National Fund "Tree Of Life Award," 1997 RCGA "Fast 50" Technology Award, 1997

Keynote Speaker (Small Business Week Kick-Off Breakfast), 1997 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year, 1997 ESSI One of Top Federal Contractors in St. Louis Region, 1997 Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Inductee, 1998 Honorary Founder DuBourg Society (King Saint Louis IX Medallion) Saint Louis University, 1995/2000 Post-Dispatch "Top 50 Local Business," 2000/2001 Chairman – St. Patrick's Center Golf Tourney, 2000 Ernst & Young Master Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2002 Shanahan Atrium Dedicated – Saint Louis University School of Business, Member of Old Warson Country Club, Castle Pines Golf Club, Boone Valley Country Club, Grey Oaks Country Club and Saint Louis Club, 1999-2000 President (Old Warson Country Club), 1997-2002 Director (Old Warson Country Club), 1997-2018 Boone Valley Golf Club Advisory Director, and a Member of the Port Royal Beach Club.

A very special "thank you" to all of the doctors, nurses, and concierge group at BJC. You are truly the best!

Services: Memorial Mass will be celebrated at Chaminade (Skip Viragh Auditorium) on February 10 at 1pm. Arrangements by Ortmann-Stipanovich Funeral Home.

As Mr. Shanahan supported thousands of charities over the years, in lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## **Bellerive Gardens Cemetery**

740 North Mason Road  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
(314) 434-3933  
[info@bellerivegardens.com](mailto:info@bellerivegardens.com)  
<https://bellerivegardens.com>