

## BRIAN SHANAHAN



Age 53, peacefully departed this world on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at his home in Upper St. Clair, PA, surrounded by his loving family following his battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

Born on September 13, 1970, Brian was the beloved husband of Karen (Kaylor) Shanahan; son of James and Antoinetti Shanahan; brother to Michael Shanahan (Kristie), Dr. James Shanahan, Jr. (Jonette), Jeffrey Shanahan (Tara), and Patrick Shanahan (Christina); a special uncle to the 13 nieces and nephews; and a devoted figure in the lives of his stepchildren, Jeremy Kaylor, Justin Kaylor (Jessica), Kyra Smargiasso (Todd), and Brandon Kaylor (Natasha). His role as a grandfather to ten grandchildren brought him immeasurable joy. Beyond his immediate family, Brian's influence extended to a wide circle of relatives, friends, and community members who admired his faith, generosity, and passion for life.

Throughout his life and career, Brian saw opportunities where others saw roadblocks. This unabashed courage and willingness to take risks made him successful in all areas of life. Brian was a stand-out high school football player at Upper St. Clair High School and went on to play in college at the University of Kentucky. From becoming a collegiate football star to a successful business entrepreneur at merely 21 years of age, Brian leaped where others paused. He could see opportunities to make a better play, offer a better product, and make the world a better place. He had a gift for making you feel like you were his top priority, and you were. Even in his personal life, Brian was an unstoppable force when he set his eyes on something he was passionate about. Just ask his loving wife Karen, who enjoyed a 32-year love affair with this man. From the moment their paths crossed, he knew he felt an undeniable connection and could not let the opportunity pass him by to make a better life for them both. Being the expert salesman he was, he persuaded Karen to work for him at his new company setting up payment processing terminals at local retail shops. At the time, he couldn't pay her much, and she'd be working odd hours, but something in his eyes let her know she'd follow him wherever he went in life. And boy, would he go places.

As a kid, strong family values were instilled in him early on while spending time at his family's home in Upper St. Clair or tossing the pigskin around with his brothers in the backyard. One of Brian's greatest passions in life was playing golf with family and friends. He was a fiercely competitive golfer, especially with his brothers and close friends. Regardless of who won that round, he knew hard work and kindness were what truly mattered in life, and that was the gift he gave to others every day. After building successful businesses in the financial industry, Brian invested his wealth into family-oriented community sports centers and creative land reuse projects. Brian wanted it all and conquered it all. But he did it all for one reason - to give families a place to create memories together, just like he had growing up in the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Although Brian encountered numerous obstacles in business and life, none of them slowed Brian down. Frankly, those obstacles only fueled his determination to succeed, and he motivated everyone around him to rise to the occasion as well. That is why when Brian faced his most difficult challenge yet, his health, he spurred and inspired the world of oncology research to rise to the challenge along with him.

Brian was diagnosed with stage three Pancreatic Cancer in August of 2020. For the past three and a half years since his diagnosis, Brian waged a courageous battle not only for his own life but also for the lives of countless others grappling with cancer. His significant contributions to the healthcare sector, marked by philanthropy and partnerships with esteemed institutions like the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society, have left an enduring legacy in the fight against cancer. A sponsor of the UPMC Hillman Center's Rush To Crush Cancer bike ride fundraiser, Brian brought his passion for family and philanthropy together to create an experience that honors and supports cancer patients locally and globally. Brian's unwavering dedication to driving innovation in cancer research and patient care has touched many lives and will continue to do so for generations.

Although this donation and event were quite a public affair, Brian showed kindness and generosity quietly and without recognition throughout most of his life. Particularly close to his heart was the Washington City Mission, and his commitment to them spanned decades. His close friends and family knew him for giving without hesitation to people in need whom he met in passing in his daily life. The stories of hope and charity were often the secrets kept between Brian and his recipients. He asked for nothing in return and always kept his faith and his hope for the future as his guiding light through his actions.

Brian will be remembered as a larger-than-life person who leaves behind a legacy that will be the type of remarkable story that grows into the tall tales of legends. Still, for now, he is humbly remembered for his ability to laugh - mostly at himself, quirky sayings, and the gift to make everyone he was around feel loved and special.

Visitation will be held at **BEINHAUER FUNERAL HOME** in McMurray, PA (2820 Washington Road) on Sunday, March 3, 2024, from 5 PM - 8 PM and Monday, March 4, 2024, from 1 PM - 3 PM and 5 PM - 8 PM. A service of remembrance will be held at St. Thomas More Resurrection Church (126 Fort Couch Road) on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:30 AM. Those who wish to honor Brian's life and legacy may make gifts in his memory to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at <https://pancan.org/>.