



Kristopher Carl Snyder

July 8, 1973 - April 15, 2025

Kristopher Carl Snyder, affectionately known as KC, passed away at his home in Claremore, Oklahoma, on April 15, 2025, after a difficult battle with mental illness. He was 51.

KC was born on July 8, 1973, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Marilyn Scheer and the late Jon Snyder. As a child, KC was a natural in front of the camera—gracing the cover of *Better Homes and Gardens* multiple times. He liked to say he was responsible for a baby boom, a theory he maintained with charm and a smile. He was a beautiful, deeply intelligent soul who found joy in the simple pleasures of life—cooking and savoring good food, immersing himself in nature, staying active, and seeking meaningful connection. On July 22, 2000, he married Melissa Snyder in Joplin, Missouri. Their life together was rich and full—marked by four homes, an adventurous array of pets, career journeys, travel around the world, and most importantly, the birth of their two beloved children, Melanie and Spencer Snyder. Being their dad was his greatest pride and joy.

KC graduated as Valedictorian from KCA in Kansas City, Missouri, and went on to study engineering at the University of Missouri–Rolla (now Missouri S&T). He was a proud Pi Kappa Phi brother, treasuring memories of St. Pat's festivities and the annual pig roast.

KC's professional career was as impressive as it was diverse. He worked as a mechanical and patent engineer in various industries: designing spacecraft batteries at Eagle Picher, developing oil pump patents at Baker Hughes,

advancing intellectual property at Navico, and most recently contributing to research and development at Myers Industries.

KC had a big heart and a spirit of service. A dedicated Toastmaster for over 15 years, he inspired and mentored many in the Tulsa area. He rode the MS 150-mile bike ride annually, raising thousands of dollars to support MS research. KC was also a marathon runner, Red Cross blood donor, yoga enthusiast, group fitness leader, and fearless pickleball player—always making athleticism look effortless.

In addition to his many achievements, KC cherished his time as a Cub and Boy Scout leader with Spencer. He spent several years leading and participating in scouting adventures—campouts, hikes, and all the spirited activities that made up their father-son journey. Those outings created cherished memories and lasting bonds with other scouts and families. He will be remembered for his genuine smile, quick wit, loving heart, and endearing quirks. KC was our beloved “kitchen fairy,” the frugal fixer of all things, a generous soul who gave his all to those around him—whether through volunteer work, a perfectly timed joke, or a home-cooked meal. His legacy is one of love, curiosity, service, and joy.

KC is survived by his loving wife Melissa; children Melanie and Spencer; his mother Marilyn Scheer; his siblings Joel Snyder and Jessica Snyder; step sisters Kristin Scheer, Kim Scheer and Kelly Delgado; several nieces and nephews; and many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family, and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Jon Snyder; stepfather Rolly Scheer; grandparents Bill and Jean Cramer of Overland Park, KS; grandmother Lorraine Snyder of New Ulm, MN; and grandfather Bill Snyder of Clinton, IA.

Correction: A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, June 8th at 4:00 PM at CSL in Kansas City. Updated details will be shared as they become available. All who knew and loved KC are welcome to attend and help celebrate the incredible life he lived.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Bike MS (<https://events.natio>

nalmssociety.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donate.event&eventID=578&language=en) in his name or donations to Venmo @melmsc to contribute to his memorial celebration of life.

Tribute Wall

DD

“ I worked with KC in the same department when he was at EaglePicher in Joplin from the late 1990s to 2002; his first engineering job after graduating from college, working in rigors of the U.S. space program. That was a daunting environment for any young person just starting a career.

I was impressed with how KC was seemingly unfazed by any challenges or setbacks that happened in a given day--he took it all in stride! He and I kept in some correspondence over the years, and I was always heartened to see that he'd done well for himself and was a great family man and a learned professional in his field.

I regret that KC's journey ended far too early, and I wish the sincerest of condolences to Melissa, KC's children, and family. You're all in my thoughts accordingly.

Dennis Divine - June 07, 2025 at 06:16 PM

DI

“ KC was an engineering soul who walked into a group of wordsmiths (our Speaking Up Toastmasters Club). Not only did he tolerate us repeatedly encouraging him to be more expressive, but he stayed and became an integral part of our "family." I enjoyed texting about book recommendations - he had a way of making you feel your opinion was valued. I am heartbroken that he has left our "family" too soon. Our "engineering wordsmith" will be deeply missed by us all. Sending hugs and prayers to his family.

Diana - April 24, 2025 at 06:19 PM

RK

“ KC was a very active member at the Claremore Rec Center where I teach classes. He especially loved our Zumba class. He had a sweet spirit & kind smile that he shared freely with everyone. He loved to chat with us after classes & if we ever had a lunch get together he was there to hang out and share life with us. I will greatly miss his presence in my classes. I'm praying for comfort & peace for his beautiful family.

Rachel Ketterling - April 23, 2025 at 01:27 PM

LG

“ I met KC at the Big Om winter yoga retreat 15 months ago. We were roommates at the retreat and became good friends. I taught him how to climb the fence at Lafortune Stadium so we could run sprints and laps together when nobody else was around. He introduced me to kombucha and brought over the best Cajun food that he made that I've ever eaten in my life! He reminded me of myself when I was his age (KC is 15 years younger than me. His birthday is 7/8 and mine is 8/7).....he was always doing yoga and constantly training for his next 5K or half marathon. He said I was his hero on the 2nd day we met because I was always talking about 'getting out of my comfort zone.' We also ran/hiked at Turkey Mountain several times. The #1 reason I went to the most recent Big Om retreat two weekends ago was because he told me he was going to be there and I had told him anytime he went I would also go and be his roommate. I miss him dearly! :(

Larry Gullette - April 22, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ *The first time I met KC was at our toastmasters meeting. He had such a gentle spirit that just drew me in immediately. I truly enjoyed listening to all of his stories about the things that he loved. His family, his kids, his new found love of running and obstacles that he had overcome along the way. He knew also how to make all of us laugh when we least expected it. I am forever grateful for every moment spent in his presence and will miss him dearly.*

Deana Carr - April 21, 2025 at 10:10 PM

SH

“ *I met KC through Toastmasters. He was a great friend, a terrific speaker, and a super entertaining guy to be around. Melissa, I am so sorry for your loss. He will be missed greatly.*



Shareca - April 21, 2025 at 05:40 PM

RM

“ *KC Served Oklahoma District 16 Toastmasters as an Area Director this year, serving with distinction. He will be missed by the clubs he served and by the district leadership. We are deeply saddened by his passing. He leaves a legacy of service to his fellow Toastmasters.*

*RW (Ron) Mixer, DTM.
District Director
Oklahoma Toastmasters*

RW Mixer - April 21, 2025 at 04:46 PM

EC

“ I meet KC for the first time at a yoga retreat in Oklahoma this past Labor Day weekend and I have never meet a kind individual for the first time he was a great roommate for a couple of days it's sad to hear of his passing today

eric couch - April 21, 2025 at 04:07 PM

DC

“ I so enjoyed hearing KC share his stories with us in Toastmasters. He always had a smile on his face, so I grieved that we were unable to see the help he may have needed to get him through tough times. He will be greatly missed.

Donna Cowan - April 21, 2025 at 02:26 AM

HB

“ KC was my friend. He was funny and made me laugh. He enjoyed riding his bike. I will miss him very much. He was always a nice and gentle soul.
Harmony Branson
Toastmasters, Tulsa

Harmony Branson - April 20, 2025 at 05:30 PM

SP

“ KC loved Toastmasters and participated fully. He willingly took on whatever role was assigned. He shared his activities with us through his speeches often bringing slides, notebooks, and objects to illustrate his talks. KC participated in contests and this year took on the role of Area Director. He joined Toastmasters International on 08/01/2010 and joined our Toastmasters Club, Speaking Up Toastmasters, in Tulsa on 05/01/2016. He will be greatly missed.

Michael and Susan Phillips

Susan Phillips - April 20, 2025 at 04:23 PM

PB

“ *KC was a joy. He will be missed by many who knew him. I always enjoyed his upbeat attitude and hearing his speech presentations while at Toastmasters in Tulsa. Wishing his family peace at this sad time.*

Phil

Phil B - April 19, 2025 at 10:55 PM