

in Memoriam

Officer

Kevin Fisher-Paulson

Department

San Francisco Sheriff's Office

End of Watch

August 29, 2024



Kevin Fisher-Paulson, a chief deputy in the San Francisco Sheriff's Office who became a family member to readers of his touchingly funny and deeply personal [weekly column in the Chronicle](#), died Thursday after a 15-month battle with kidney cancer, which he did not shy away from writing about.

Nor did Fisher-Paulson shy away from writing about having to send an adopted son out of state for psychiatric treatment or the disciplinary problems with his pack of rescue dogs or being gay in a traditional Irish Catholic family in Queens, where he grew up.

Not shying away was the whole point of his column, including the frank honesty of [his final installment](#), published posthumously on Thursday.

Fisher-Paulson died in hospice care at the Bedlam Blue Bungalow in the Outer, Outer, Outer, Outer Excelsior, the Island of Lost Boys, as he always called his home in San Francisco. Even though he only had 750 words per week to fit in an entire life of topics, he always used four of those words to adequately describe his neighborhood. His death was confirmed by his husband, Brian Fisher-Paulson. He was 66.

His health problems were revealed on May 30, 2023, in a [column titled "Resolving to fight, and write, to the end."](#) He explained that the pain in his hip, first discovered while traveling in Ireland, had been traced to a tumor in his kidney that had already spread to his lungs and lymph nodes.

Kevin Thaddeus Paulson was born July 20, 1958, in Queens, N.Y., the youngest of three sons of Harold "Hap" and Vivian "Nurse Vivian" Paulson. Hap was in charge of special-service telephone lines at Kennedy Airport, which was three miles from the family home in South Ozone Park. His mother was an obstetrics nurse.

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“He used to say he grew up on Queens Boulevard, so he always said his destiny was preordained,” said Brian.

Kevin attended Archbishop Molloy High School, class of 1976. He was active in drama and had a solo in “On the Street Where You Live” in “My Fair Lady,” according to his older brother, Donald, otherwise known as Brother X in the column.

When Kevin was in high school, he got a near-perfect score on the SATs and turned down a full scholarship to Manhattan College in order to accept a partial scholarship to University of Notre Dame, where he majored in American studies and was a member of the class of 1980.

Fisher-Paulson earned his MBA at the University of Michigan in 1982. He returned to New York and worked at both Gimbels and Macy’s department stores in Newark, N.J. He lived in Hoboken, where he met Brian Fisher, a professional dancer, at a dinner party thrown by Paulson’s cousin in Jersey City on Oct. 8, 1985.

They lived in an apartment on Fair Oaks Street before buying a three-bedroom home from the 1920s, two blocks from the Daly City line. They registered as domestic partners on their anniversary in 2001, and were married legally, again, on their anniversary in 2008. They’d already hyphenated their name after adopting a son, Zane, in 2004.

Fisher-Paulson advanced to the position of chief deputy, one of only four or five in the department who oversee security in the county jail and the courts, he said. “He’s done, like five lifetimes full of stuff for the department,” said Michele Fisher (no relation), a retired chief deputy with the San Francisco Sheriff’s Office.

Survivors include his husband, Brian; sons Zane and Aidan, both of San Francisco; and brothers Donald Paulson (X) of Seaford, N.Y., and Harold (XX) of Lancaster, Pa.

No information was available about memorial services. Gifts in Kevin’s name can be made to the [Innocence Project](#) or the [Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group](#).

Read the full article at:

https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/kevin-fisher-paulson-columnist-obituary-19740803.php?utm_content=hed&sid=5452c4483b35d010308d05a4&ss=A&st_rid=7a26a527-c086-41fb-a8d5-b6aeb1cbfc2&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=sfc_breakingnews