



## James J. Buza

July 9, 1959 - April 10, 2020

On Friday, April 10, 2020, James Buza, 60, passed away suddenly in his home, in Koontz Lake, Indiana. James was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 9, 1959 to Medard and Margaret (Hoff) Buza.

He moved to his family vacation home, in Koontz Lake, many years ago. James had a carefree spirit. He could find happiness in the simplest of things, but his passions were on the broadest of spectrums. He poured himself into several hobbies which were not limited to model trains, music, gun collecting, fishing and grilling. He was a great friend to many and eager to help solve any problem which was presented to him. He shared his knowledge, skills, and unmatched wit with those that surrounded him. His gifts and presence will undoubtedly be missed by many.

On July 17, 2006 he married his soul mate, Louise (Crawford) Buza, whom also survives. In addition to his beloved daughter, Margaret Buza of Plymouth, Jim opened his heart to his stepchildren, Katelynn Bennett of South Bend, Ryan Jackson of Walkerton, Lisa Smothermon (Tim) of Mishawaka, and Christine Voss (Scott) of LaPorte and cherished all nine of his grandchildren, Jack and Carson Smothermon, Simon and Felix Voss, Mannix Jackson, Liam and Claire Coffield and Parker and Charlotte Lortie and one sister, Laura Tiller of Crown Point, IN and one brother, William Buza of Nebraska. He is also survived by his extremely loyal dog, Spud. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Robert Buza.

In addition to being a loving husband, father, stepfather and grandfather,

James devoted 30 years working at Federal Marine Terminals where he was very dedicated and hard-working.

A Celebration of Life Service will take place when COVID-19 restriction have been lifted.

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ My deepest sympathies to all of Jim's family and friends. I had the pleasure of knowing Jim for 35+ years - most of the memories from when he lived here in the Region, but also some pretty fun times at Koontz Lake as well!! Jim was so kind and generous, had a heart of gold, and always made me laugh! His quick wit and laughter was contagious. He was loved by many and will certainly be missed. Rest in peace Jim!!

*Terri Butler*

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**Terri Butler** - April 21, 2020 at 10:58 AM

ST

“ In every shipping port in the world, you need to have a guy (or gal). That one person that you can depend on to do whatever is necessary to get the job done. To be honest, trustworthy, reliable and most importantly to know what the customer wants and to give 100% every time. For me, Jim was my guy in Burns Harbor. Anything Burns Harbor related...call Jim, he'll sort it!

*I had the pleasure of meeting Jim on a couple of occasions and he was always welcoming and always trying to help.*

*Am very sorry to hear of Jim's passing but i take comfort in reading some of the kind words on here.*

*Condolences to the family & everyone who knew Jim.*

*All the best mate!*

*Steve Talbot, British Steel UK*

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**Steve Talbot** - April 20, 2020 at 11:33 AM

LL

“ Had the opportunity to chat with Jim on several occasions; he will certainly be missed!  
I fondly remember Jim was at our year-end party where he received his well deserved watch for 25 years of dedicated and loyal service. Always an interesting conversationalist and passionate about his hobby “du jour”.  
My sincere condolences to his family.  
Lynn Lafond,  
Montreal, QC

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**Lynn Lafnd** - April 16, 2020 at 01:01 PM

BA

“ Louis and all the family our deepest sympathy  
  
Butch Abel family

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**BARB ABEL** - April 16, 2020 at 10:49 AM

JC

“ Although I live in Michigan I traveled frequently to the Koontz Lake area. Whenever I would see Jim I would come away with a good memory from a kind man. He and my sister, Louise, loved each other deeply and it was apparent to all. He will be missed.  
John....Saginaw, Michigan

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**John Crawford** - April 15, 2020 at 09:27 PM

LM

“ My condolences to Jim’s family. I first met Jim, at FMT on 95th St over 23 years ago. We became friends and we would often meet for pizza or ribs, with Ian, Brian and (Mike G., when he was in town). Enjoyed the talks we had, about family and work. I will miss him.

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**Lawrence Marszalek** - April 15, 2020 at 08:02 PM

JP

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Jim. He sure was a nice man and he will be missed. My sincere condolences.

*Janice Palkovich*

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**Janice Palkovich** - April 15, 2020 at 03:22 PM

TL

“ So sorry to hear this, I talked to him so much over the years and built a friendship from there. He will be missed.

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**Troy Layton** - April 15, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ I want to thank everyone who was shared a memory about my beloved Papa. It means so much to me how much my Dad meant to everyone. Thank you all so much. It is really appreciated.

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**Maggie Buza** - April 15, 2020 at 02:26 PM

RA

“ Louise...so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I will miss his quick wit and wisdom of all things gun and computer related. He always was there to answer questions or help with anything you were having problems with. One of the most caring and sharing people I have ever met. I most enjoyed our in depth conversations about shooting and ballistics...boring to most, but I found him brilliant in his knowledge of those pursuits.

*I am a better man having known him.*

*Robert & Julie Aloï*

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**Robert Aloï** - April 15, 2020 at 12:50 PM

IH

“ Jim was one of the good ones. A friend for 30 years; you could always count on him. He would probably have a smart aleck remark for you, but that would soon be followed by his infamous grin. The world is worse off today and I offer my sincerest condolences to Louise, Maggie and all his family. I miss my friend.....

Ian Hirt - April 15, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James J. Buza.



April 15, 2020 at 12:38 PM

PP

“ Jim was a very dedicated part of our Fednav/FMT family for 30 years and will be badly missed. He was always a pleasure to spend time with - so knowledgeable about his work with lots of outside interests. I will never forget Jim driving me to lunch in his VW Beetle! My condolences to the Buza family.

Paul Pathy - April 15, 2020 at 11:28 AM

MO

“ I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to meet and work with Jim over the years. He was truly a great man and always there to support our team and myself. I will miss him dearly and wanted to extend my sympathies to his family. My thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.

Melissa Oliver - April 15, 2020 at 10:06 AM

DP

“ I can't even express how much I will miss my work buddy. I could always count on him for the appropriate smart remark when we were working on something that would be trying our patience



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**Diane Plogger** - April 15, 2020 at 08:06 AM

SF

“ So sorry to hear about Jim. Our sympathies to your entire family.

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**Schnekenburger family** - April 14, 2020 at 08:47 PM



“ I'm sending my deepest condolences as Margaret's best friend. He meant everything to your family and will surely be missed very much.

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**Chardae Stanger** - April 14, 2020 at 03:32 PM

RD

“ Jim you will be missed unbelievably so. You are loved heart and soul.

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**Robin Davis** - April 14, 2020 at 01:31 PM