



Frank James "Buster" Pickering

September 17, 1942 - February 14, 2021

Frank James "Buster" Pickering, a lifelong resident of Hazlehurst, MS died peacefully on February 14, 2021, after a long illness. Born on September 17, 1942 to Frank and Tad Pickering, Buster graduated from Hazlehurst High School in 1960 and attended the University of Mississippi. He began his banking career in Jackson at First National Bank of Jackson and then at the Bank of Hazlehurst. After many years there, Buster went to work for the City of Hazlehurst where he retired after forty years in 2017. He served in the National Guard and was elected City Alderman, an office he also held for forty years. In 1952, Buster became a member of the Hazlehurst United Methodist Church where he remained a member for sixty-nine years, many of which he sang in the church choir.

From their childhood on, Buster's nieces and nephews relished visiting him in Hazlehurst. He held them spellbound when he played his guitar, especially when he sang "Julieanne" by the New Christie Minstrels. Buster regaled them as an accomplished pianist and kept them laughing with his funny fishing poems. He delighted them by teaching them to drive (well before the legal age) and treating them to dinners in Jackson and adventures in New Orleans. He was never without a huge smile and his beautiful deep southern accent will resonate in their minds for years to come.

Buster loved his golfing buddies, especially the time spent with M.A. Bass,

Bubba Wood and the late Pete Boone. He was thrilled to make his life long dream of playing golf at the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland come true. More than anything, Buster delighted in his hometown of Hazlehurst. He eagerly shared his excitement about any new project associated with the city and beamed with pride when he spoke of his hometown. Hazlehurst resided deep in his heart.

Buster was predeceased by his father Edward Frank Pickering, his mother Thelma ("Tad") James Pickering and his brother-in-law Dr. O. Sterling Gillis III. He is survived by his beloved sister, Jane Pickering Gillis of San Angelo, TX and four adoring nieces and nephew: Catherine Gillis Carmody of New York, NY; Rebecca Gillis White of San Angelo, TX; Orrin Sterling Gillis IV of Houston, TX and Whitney Gillis Zylstra of Huntingdon Valley, PA. He is also survived by 3 great-nieces and great-nephew: Rachael White Young (New York, NY); Olivia White (Atlanta, GA); Calvin Steinhauer (Clarksdale, MS) and Juliet Gillis (Houston, TX); and several cousins whom he enjoyed immensely.

The family is deeply grateful to M.A. Bass, Bubba Wood, Pam Wilbert and the staff at Pine Crest Guest Home for their kindness and devotion. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at Hazlehurst United Methodist Church. Pallbearers are Chet Allred, M. A. Bass, Billy Day, Harold Watts, Bubba Wood and Ronnie Wood. Honorary Pallbearers are Dennis Guynes, Van Hartley and Billy Holliday. The family welcomes your in-person attendance adhering to social distancing and wearing masks. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hazlehurst United Methodist Church or a charity of choice.

Cemetery Details

Hazlehurst Cemetery

Sinclaire St.
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Previous Events

Funeral

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hazlehurst Methodist Church
127 Caldwell Dr
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
(601) 894-1709

Tribute Wall



“ *Frank James "Buster" Pickering*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Buster thanks for your friendship may you always carry a smile. May you rest in peace. Ralph Anderson*

Ralph Anderson - February 25, 2021 at 09:27 AM



I don't know whether you'll even see this Ralph, but thank you for your words. It's been almost a year and I miss my uncle so much.

Whitney Zylstra - January 15, 2022 at 03:31 PM



“ *Buster was my friend as well as Bubba's. We shared many a meal, a laugh, an hour with Buster. He had a kind heart, a sharp mind, a quick wit and a huge sense of humor. He was a loyal friend and always a welcomed sight and I feel very blessed to have been friends with this gentle man. Go with God, Buster, and we will see you on the other side.*

Babs Wood - February 24, 2021 at 03:16 PM



I don't know whether you'll see this note, but thank you for your words...I miss him every day and cannot believe it's been almost a year already. I hope all is well with you and yours. Whitney Gillis (Buster's niece).

Whitney Zylstra - January 15, 2022 at 03:33 PM

BW

“ *Buster was my dear friend who I've known for close to 70 years. Rest in peace old friend.*

Bubba Wood - February 23, 2021 at 10:42 PM

WZ

It's been almost a year, Bubba. I miss him every day. Thank you so much for being such a good friend to him. Love, Whitney

Whitney Zylstra - January 15, 2022 at 03:34 PM

LS

“ *To know Buster is to love him. He was a very special friend to my late husband, Herbert "Birdie" Johnson. We shared many wonderful times with Buster through the years. Each of his friends considered him family. He was a kind and lovable southern gentleman and enriched every life of the countless friends.*

Lyn Johnson Sklar - February 18, 2021 at 02:08 PM

WZ

Hi Lyn, I love reading these words after almost a year since Buster went to heaven. I miss every day. I hope all is well with you. It's been a tough time for so many! Warmest wishes, Whitney Gillis (Buster's niece)

Whitney Zylstra - January 15, 2022 at 03:35 PM