



"Buzz" Pierce

April 4, 1942 - July 28, 2011

West Olive, Michigan – “Buzz” Pierce, 69, of West Olive, formerly of Benton Harbor, passed away early on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at his home.

Funeral services celebrating his life will be held at 1:00 P.M., on August 1, 2011, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Service, 1053 E. Napier Ave., in Benton Harbor, with Pastor Bill Hughes officiating. Burial will follow at Lakeshore Hagar Cemetery, on Maple Lane, in Hagar Township. Visitation will be held from 3:00 until 6:00 P.M., on Sunday, July 31, at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor’s choice. Messages of condolence may be sent to www.florin.net.

Buzz was born on April 4, 1942, in St. Joseph to Charles and Bernice Pierce. He married the ‘love of his life,’ Virginia Zachary on June 24, 1961, and recently they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Music was Buzz’ life! He could play almost any instrument and was a musician in several bands – most recently the Gospel River Band. Buzz was a born entertainer who incorporated jokes and humor with his music. He was instantly likable and “he never met a stranger.” “Buzz was always willing to help anyone in need.” Most of all Buzz cherished his family and particularly enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren – which meant teaching them to play music and fish.

Buzz is survived by his wife of 50 years, Virginia of West Olive; sons, Scott (Angela) of West Olive and Steven (Debra) of Holland; grandchildren, Brandon(Ashley), Shane, Haley, Nathan, Noah, Abigail, and Jacob; great-granddaughter, Kennedy; step-grandchildren, Chloe, Joshua, and Cody; by his mother-in-law, Marjorie Zachary; and by his numerous friends.

In addition to his parents, Buzz was preceded in death by his half-brother, Jack Martin.

Cemetery Details

Lakeshore Hagar Cemetery

Eaman Road
Hagar Township, MI 49022

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Service

AUG 1. 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

AL

“ Buzz and my Grandpa Dodge had a life-long friendship. I knew him as Uncle Buzz. He was a great musician - he taught me how to play a keyboard. He was a great comedian - he honed my sense of humor. He was a magician, and always had a small trick or two to amaze with. In the winter, he was "Santa Claus" at the Blossom Lanes Christmas Party. I'm reminded of him in the smallest of ways - I heard someone singing, "Fuzzy Wuzzy was a Bear," and I instantly thought back, "Buzzy Wuzzy had no hair." He was one of a kind. His legacy will continue to live on through all who knew him, including me. He may not be with us anymore, but his spirit resonates through us all.

Ammie-Marie Littke - December 16, 2014 at 01:50 PM

BW

“ I was so sorry to hear of Buzz' sudden passing. I remember the last time I saw him--at my grandmother Grace's funeral in 1999. He threw an arm of comfort around my shoulder and talked to me for a few minutes about loss and grieving--it really meant a lot to me. Then ten minutes later he was taking bets on whether or not my wife and ex-wife would duke it out, and who would win. I loved and will definitely miss his big laugh and sense of humor. Heaven's band just gained a talented musician. My condolences to Virginia and family--anyone who ever met Buzz will miss him dearly.
Brian Williamson (Tucson, AZ)

Brian Williamson - August 04, 2011 at 09:15 PM

DP

“ Buzz and I attended Benton Harbor High School together, we knew him as Charles. He was a very nice person and well liked by everyone. Rest in peace. Darlene (Muirhead) PAGE

Darlene (Muirhead) PAGE - August 01, 2011 at 03:46 PM

RK

“ I remember when Buzz played for our wedding in 1998. It was simply wonderful.

Do rest in peace, Buzz. I will never forget you or Virginia.

Renea Kreitner-Nelson

Renea Ann Nelson, Louisville, Ky - July 31, 2011 at 02:14 PM

KT

“ Buzz was a good customer of mine at the Radio Shack on Napier Avenue. Always a happy guy. It was always a pleasure to see Buzz. I want to send my best wishes to all his family and friends and my sincerest condolences. Peace.

Keith Totzke - July 31, 2011 at 10:15 AM

MH

“ MICHELLE HART lit a candle in memory of "Buzz" Pierce



MICHELLE HART - July 30, 2011 at 02:47 PM

BL

“ i used to go to the rainbow and hear bud play music and talked to him on the CB radio's he used to give me a ride home if i had to much to drink always helping someone he will be dearly missed god bless him Bruce E Little

Bruce E Little - July 30, 2011 at 07:34 AM

SJ

“ Buzz,



We were so shocked to find out that we had lost you. You have been a close family friend all of my life. It seems like I've known you forever. I loved it when we played music together. The last time we saw you was at my brother's funeral. You were such a big help during that trying time. Thanking you just didn't seem like enough. We talked to you on the phone over the years and most recently a couple of times after your surgeries. But that wasn't near enough. You are such a good hearted and caring person. And one thing I know for sure. With you and dad in Heaven, God is sure getting some beautiful music! We will always miss that. You're in a better place and some day there will be a great reunion day and we'll see all of you again.

We love you very much and will always miss you. And for anything we ever forgot to thank you for, thank you.

Sharon & Jeannette

Sharon & Jeannette - July 30, 2011 at 02:51 AM

TE

“ *Buzz was a family friend and when we played music he played with us many times. I have fond memories of him and our times together were always fun and filled with laughter. He was always eager to help others and his heart was for the underdog. He will be missed.*

Tim Enders

Tim Enders - July 29, 2011 at 05:27 PM

KL

Buzz was a friend from many years ago, but whenever we touched base again after years apart, it was just like "yesterday". Buzz was always a caring, loving friend who loved a good joke, always laughing, and of course, making music. That was the first thing I remember about him-making music on anything that he could use to make music with, but especially the piano and steel guitar. I will miss his congeniality, but God is loving his music. He is at peace, love you, Buzz.
Kay (Long) Lehmann

Kay (Long) Lehmann - July 31, 2011 at 07:29 PM

JR

Buzz was a Great Family Friend....I had to make a unexpected trip to OK. and could not take Iris. Buzz was right there in line to feel in...Rest in Peace My Friend...Jim Rogers

Jim Rogers - July 31, 2011 at 09:15 PM