



Resolution of Memorial Tribute

In Memory of

James Frederick “Buz” Brown

1935 – 2020

James F. “Buz” Brown, a proud Arkansas Razorback, was born January 29, 1935 in Little Rock, as the youngest of four children to parents Alma Dyson Brown and James Fenner Brown. As birth order would have it, Buz came last after two sisters and a brother. And as life sometimes happens, Buz’s father passed away when Buz was very young. In time, his mother married Roy Murray. By the time Buz Brown was old enough to go to school, his family had moved to Louisiana; and moving from state to state was a common theme in the life of Buz Brown...eventually moving to Beaumont, TX as soon as he could...which was not until forty years later!

Part of that forty-year period was spent growing up in Cotton Valley, LA, where his mother’s family had originally lived. During the 1950’s, he attended Cotton Valley High School. From what he had been told over the years, Von Brown shared, “Dad was a good math student and a good baseball player...good enough at baseball to get an offer to play for the St. Louis Cardinals right out of high school. He went to training camp where he was preparing to try out for the position of catcher. But he blew out his arm, ending his baseball career.”

Buz then moved to Pine Bluff, AR. It was there that Buz met and eventually married Donna Harris. They married February 14, 1958; and a month later, Buz was drafted into the U. S. Army.



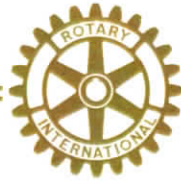
Buz and Donna moved to Ft. Gordon, GA where, in 1960, first son Von was born. After two years at Ft. Gordon, the Brown Family moved back to Arkansas where Buz and Donna both had family.

In Pine Bluff, AR, Buz went to work for Goodyear Tire; but with each promotion, the Brown Family moved. In 1965, while living in Greenwood, MS, Buz and Donna welcomed second son Gary. And there were more promotions with Goodyear Tire and The Brown Family of Four relocating from Greenwood, MS then Midland, TX then Findlay, Ohio then El Dorado, AR.

But in El Dorado, according to Gary Brown, "Dad changed jobs, accepting a job with Babcock's Auto Tire Company as General Manager. He was hired to help grow the business. Babcock's Auto Tire Company was a General Store, so Dad sold Cooper Tires, washers and dryers, rods and reels, and more."

"At a Tire Convention in 1974, according to Gary Brown, "Buz met business owner Jack Baxter of Beaumont, TX. The conversation turned into a spontaneous interview with Jack Baxter's ultimately asking Dad to come run his business, Jack's Tire Service. Dad was ready to take that next step in his career, but there had to be the right offer. The negotiation went well. In fact, Dad couldn't refuse it. And that's how we got to Beaumont." Buz, Donna, and two sons moved to Beaumont on January 1, 1975. Buz served as General Manager of Jack's Tire Service for thirteen years.

In 1988 Buz joined Bill Clark Pest Control as Service Manager which evolved to Sales Manager and then to Marketing Manager. During some of the twenty-



five years that Buz was part of the Bill Clark Family, he was lucky enough to enjoy working in the same business with sons Von and Gary.

In 1992, James F. “Buz” Brown was proposed for membership in the Rotary Club of Beaumont by his boss, Rotarian Bill Clark. Buz’s Rotary Classification was “Pest Exterminating Service” and his focus was “Community”. A Paul Harris Fellow, Buz was an active member of the Rotary Club of Beaumont even after his 2014 retirement from Bill Clark Pest Control. Bill Clark remembers that “there were years that Buz said he had to make it to Rotary meeting because he had perfect attendance, and he was very proud of that”; however, those were not during his recent years of membership.

Because of Buz’s positive attitude, his sense of humor, and his ease in talking and in getting others to talk, it can be said that he never met a stranger; and that he was no stranger to anyone. Because of that, he touched many lives...especially the lives of fellow Rotarians who miss his warm greeting and firm handshake at every meeting and the way that he reached out with telephone calls and/or emails to Rotarians who were absent from Rotary meetings. James F. “Buz” Brown, a caring person who was also a dedicated Rotarian for twenty-eight years, passed away on January 22, 2020...eight days short of his eighty-fifth birthday.

Buz Brown just made it his personal business to reach out to his fellow Rotarians who were absent from Rotary Meetings...or he would ask about family members of his Rotarian friends. His interest was genuine and acknowledged with appreciation by those Rotarians who received emails or calls from him. Here are two 2008 email exchanges found in Buz Brown’s file





in the Rotary Office, between Buz and fellow Rotarians. Buz shared them with Rotary Executive Director Donna Qualls, so that she too would know the personal situations that explained the absences:

- To one Rotarian, Buz wrote, “_____, I haven’t seen you or (your dad) at Rotary in a long time. Is everything OK? We miss seeing both of you.” The email response back to Buz included just how “busy and hectic” life was at the time for the family and these words, “Thanks for caring to send the email.”
- To his minister at Trinity United Methodist Church, he wrote, “_____, I’ve missed seeing you at Rotary for some time. Hope you haven’t been ill. I need my Methodist buddy there; the Baptist are gaining ground on us.” The email response to Buz included about his minister’s “tough journey” following knee-replacement surgery and these words: “I do appreciate your calls and emails. It makes me feel that I might be actually missed around lunch-time. Thanks, my friend and fellow Methodist.”

And Buz’s checking up on fellow Rotarians and their family happened beyond the 2008 examples in the files of the Rotary Club of Beaumont. He applied his focus on “Community” to include the individual members of his Rotary Community!

Besides involvement in Rotary Club of Beaumont, Buz was also active in his church and within his profession as follows:

- Administration Board of Trinity United Methodist Church
- Day School Board of Trinity United Methodist Church
- Member of Harvester Sunday School Class of Trinity United Methodist Church





- Membership and participation for years in the Southeast Texas Pest Control Association, including serving as Secretary.

After his retirement from Bill Clark Pest Control, Buz pursued his favorite pastimes: “enjoying family get-togethers, like birthdays of the grandkids; golfing with his buddies” (Donna Brown); “cheering on all the sports of his beloved Arkansas Razorbacks” (Von Brown); and attending weekly Rotary Club meetings. “But”, as per Donna Brown, “in that his clients had his cell number, it didn’t matter that Buz was retired. They called him. Buz talked to them, found out what they needed, and then referred them to the appropriate person at Bill Clark Pest Control.” Gary Brown added, “Some who called were business owners who just wanted Dad’s advice. Dad welcomed those calls and appreciated being trusted by the relationships that had developed over the years.”

James F. “Buz” Brown was preceded in death far too early by his father James Fenner Brown, by his loving mother Alma Dyson Brown Murray, and by his stepfather Roy Murray. He is also preceded in death by his sister Mickey Brown Grisham and her husband David; sister Bobbie Brown Crews, her husband Dorsey Crews, and her sons Dorsey, Jr., Fenner, and Van; and brother Walker Cleveland “W. C.” Brown and his wife Doris Crow Brown. Sadly, Buz’ son, Von Brown, passed in April of 2021.

Buz is survived by Donna Harris Brown, his wife of sixty-one years; their son Gary Brown and his wife Becky Brown, of Beaumont; grandchildren Colleen Brown of Beaumont and Garrett Brown of San Marcos; great-granddaughter Laila Brown of Beaumont; and nieces Carol Grisham of Aiken, SC and Nancy Grisham Brunson of Castle Rock, CO.





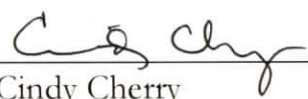
Buz is not only missed by his beloved, loving and adoring family of four generations, he is also missed by his church family, his work family, and especially by his Rotary family.


Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the members of the Rotary Club of Beaumont express sorrow at the death of James F. "Buz" Brown, a man whose warm smile, cheerful disposition, and caring nature were constant whether at work or at church or at Rotary. James F. "Buz" Brown touched many lives in remarkably positive ways during his almost eighty-five year legacy.

And, Be it Further Resolved that this resolution is spread across the minutes of this Rotary Club and that copies be furnished to his family and to the Tyrrell Historical Library.

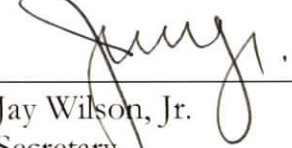
Passed by unanimous vote of the membership this the 26th day of May 2021.

Approved:


Cindy Cherry
President


Cynthia A. Wolf, Chair
Resolutions & Memorials Committee

Attest:


Jay Wilson, Jr.
Secretary


Jacque Chapman
Executive Director

