



James Ralph Bentley

March 17, 1959 - April 10, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our brother, James “Dutch” Ralph Bentley, who went to heaven to be with our parents on April 10, 2025.

James was born as the fourth of 8 children on March 17, 1959 in Tulsa, OK. He was a cute, chunky, happy baby. Dad’s brother and friends kept joking that he looked like the baby in the Dutch Boy Paint commercials, so everyone began calling him “The Dutchman”, or “Dutch”.

James attended St. Patrick’s Catholic School and Chanute High school, and obtained his Electrician’s Certificate in 1984 from Pittsburg State College. Subsequently he did electrical work in Texas, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

James was noted for his affection for the underdog and for his quirky humor and creativity. His humor often made us howl with laughter. He loved to make collages on the attic walls out of odd newspaper clippings and family photos. As siblings moved away he would send them and the grandkids gifts wrapped in these paper collages. They were amazing and we are grateful that some have been saved.

Our family will always be grateful to him for the good care he gave our Mother in her last years. Until her death in 2013 he was completely devoted and

committed to her, as she and Dad had been to us.

His journey through life wasn't always easy. He faced many challenges but never let them harden his kind and loving heart. He was the kind of person who would give what little he had to someone in need. He never hesitated to lend a hand, crack a joke, take in a stray dog, or bury a neighbor's dog. His imperfections only made his goodness shine brighter. He was deeply loved, and he leaves behind memories that will make us smile, shake our heads in wonder, and continue to laugh. We take comfort in knowing that he is finally at peace, free from the battles he faced, and was told he was loved on his last day.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Ceil Bentley. He is survived by his 7 siblings who loved and cared for him till the end and will carry his memory with love and laughter: Jan Bentley of Kansas City, MO, Jane and her husband Kim Blocher of Lawrence, KS, John and his wife Diana Bentley of LaMesa, CA, Jill Bentley of Pasadena, CA, Julie O'Connor of La Jolla, CA, Joe Bentley and Jay Thomas Bentley of Dallas, TX, nephews Brad Brian, and Jake, and nieces Dria and Adyline.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Chanute in May when family members can all attend. A graveside service will be held in St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery in Chanute immediately afterwards.

Reciting of the Rosary will be held at 9:30 am at St. Patrick Catholic Church on Saturday, May 17th and a Memorial Mass will follow at 10:00 am. Burial will follow at St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Allen County Animal Rescue Facility, the No-Kill shelter for SEK at <http://ACARF.org>

Previous Events

Rosary

MAY 17. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church - Chanute
424 S. Central
Chanute, KS

Mass

MAY 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church - Chanute
424 S. Central
Chanute, KS

Tribute Wall

SD

“ I didn't know James very long. A friend introduced us. My best memory is James tinkering. He would work on this or that. He was always busy. He was a true friend to many. I was called upon by James many times to track his phone because he had misplaced it. I never minded helping him. He was always nice and polite and appreciated the help. May you resting peace

Susie Davis - May 15, 2025 at 06:06 AM

MB

“ To all of the Bentley family, please accept my condolences. I lived in Chanute in 1965-1968, went to St. Pat's 1st-3rd grades with Dutch. We had our First Communion together. I believe Jan may have babysat us occasionally when my folks had a date night. I was the oldest of 5 and my sister Mickey was in class with Jill if I remember correctly. We lived at 131 S. Grant in a house that is no longer there, just an empty lot south of Sutcliffe Pipe & Supply. We moved to Newton, Ks and lost touch after a few letters.... I saw the obituary in the Catholic Advance. You are all in my prayers. Rest in Peace Dutch!

Michael "Mike" Boston - May 08, 2025 at 10:15 PM

KG

“ Our family have known the Bentleys for a very long time, and Dutch was always a person who would make you smile just by looking at him because he always had that silly grin on his face and you wondered what he was thinking or what he was up to. He was always happy and fun to be around, I can't remember what day I first met him because I was so young. He was always asking what he could do to help because that was the type of person that was. I didn't get to see him very often later in life but anytime we ran into each other we would always block the aisles of the grocery store for 20 or 30 minutes Just talking. It was a pleasure knowing him and he will be missed by many but God has a different plan for him and I hope that gives the family a little bit of peace. He will be missed and remembered for a very long time.

Kevin Gene Golay - April 18, 2025 at 05:10 PM

JB

Kevin, these are such a kind and treasured words from you! Our family has loved the Golay family, & our beloved mothers especially loved each other, for 60 years now! Blessings and love to all of you! Jan

Jan Bentley - April 26, 2025 at 06:18 PM

BB

“ Always a lover of good music and funny jokes. Forever a child at heart and a kind soul. Thanks for teaching me how to shoot that BB gun uncle Dutch!



brad bentley - April 18, 2025 at 02:50 PM

JT

To all of Dutch's family, your brother was one of kind. I will miss our phone calls we had several times per month. Dutch and I had reconnected approximate 5 years ago. I knew Dutch from Chanute. And would always try to stop by when I was in town. I will always remember his great sense of humor. He gave me a puppy 8 years ago. The mutt continues to be one of the greatest gifts I've received. I'm really going to miss my buddy! I hope you're tearing them up in heaven!

joe tobin - April 25, 2025 at 05:52 PM

GB

“ *Sending heartfelt condolences to the Bentley family. Dutch was such a kind and very funny guy. I remember a Thanksgiving time visit to the Bentley home and Dutch and dad Bill kept the group in stitches. Remember laughing until it hurt! Rest in peace Dutch. Remember all the good times.*

Greg Bilyeu - April 17, 2025 at 04:30 PM

DB

“ *Rest easy, Uncle Dutch. You were wild, unpredictable, and one of a kind. We'll miss your crazy stories and the laughs you always brought. I feel at ease knowing you finally found peace.*

Dria Bentley - April 16, 2025 at 04:40 PM

AB

“ *My Uncle Dutch was such a kind soul, I have many great memories of him, i always loved hearing him tell his stories, he was so animated whenever he told them. By far one of the goofiest people I know, he always made my day whenever we would talk on the phone! I'm going to miss him deeply!*

adyline bentley - April 16, 2025 at 07:27 AM

JJ

“ I’m so sorry to all the Bentley family for your loss of Dutch he was a good friend to my husband Jim Jones. Dutch was always so friendly and wore a big smile every time I saw him. Dutch may you Rest In Peace and tell Jim that we love & miss him every day.

Janice Haynes Jones - April 15, 2025 at 08:32 PM

JK

“ Sorry for your lose. He was a long time friend. Never a dull moment with Dutch. I will miss him. Rest in pease breeze!!!!!!

jake king - April 15, 2025 at 09:50 AM

LW

“ James would always send me messages on fb to check on me. I never met him in person but he sure would always check to see if I was doing ok. I hadn't heard from him in a while. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for his family.

Lila wood - April 15, 2025 at 12:15 AM

CW

“ Ohhh, so sorry for your loss. Worked with Jim in Clinton, Ia. for A-lert. He was an absolute hoot to be around. Years later he looked me up and stopped by to visit when I lived in Eureka,Ks. I asked him why he didn't stop by more often and he said "Well..., your wife has the same first name as Hitlers wife...and that just bothers me" my wife's name was Eva and you could have picked her jaw up off the floor! It was absolutely hilarious! You never knew what he was going to say and that's what I loved about him. He and his dad always debated civil war scenarios. Gonna miss that dear friend,
Woody

Chris Wooderson - April 14, 2025 at 07:00 PM

CW

He would also say " I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy "

Chris Wooderson - April 16, 2025 at 04:33 PM

MB

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Michael "Mike" Boston - May 07, 2025 at 08:30 AM

TG

“ I have known Dutch for quite some time. When I worked for BrB construction that built the water treatment plant here in Chanute is when I believe I first got to know Dutch. I have seen and chatted with Dutch many times through out the years. I am so sorry to hear of his passing.

Tonya (Howard) Greer - April 14, 2025 at 04:51 PM